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21 March 1985

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EGYPT

POPE SHANUDAH INTERVIEWED ON LEAVING WADI NATRUN

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Jan 85 pp 28-29

[Interview with Pope Shanudah by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo: "I Liked Seclusion and Felt Like An Emigre Returning To His Country. Separation of Church and State Means Religious Leaders Should Not Work in Politics"; date not specified]

[Text] The flexibility of His Holiness Pope Shanudah III is what attracts people to him. The man possesses a smooth, open-minded effusive resilience that helps him live the simple life he has chosen for himself. He speaks with everyone as if he were a long-time friend, thus putting forth his principle that trust begets trust and fear begets fear. He believes that if one gives, one receives in return; one receives as much as he gives. I met with him, following his seclusion, on the occasion of Christmas to hear him talk about the spiritual facts he acquired following 40 months of seclusion and about Islam and Christianity, brotherliness and inter-marriage and about religion and the state as well.

[Question] What are the spiritual facts which your long period of seclusion, almost 40 months, gave you, and what were your impressions thereafter?

[Answer] I, by nature, like the monastary and the life of tranquility and solitude with God. That is why I chose the priesthood. When I was ordained, I did not think for a moment that I would go into the world to serve. Therefore, when I had the chance for this seclusion, I felt like an emigre returning to his country or a person who had finally found what he was looking for. I know that God is everywhere, in the monastary and in the city, but the important thing is our being with Him. We can be with him in the cities, but not with the same kind of concentration because we are seized by words and crowdedness. How right was that spiritual shaykh who said: "The love of God alienated me from the people and the human race." The one who tastes the sweetness of intimacy with God and acquires a taste for the Kingdom of Heaven forgets everything save for those hallowed moments he lives in. This is one of the benefits of oblivion.

[Question] I imagine myself in the sanctum of mysticism. What you are talking about and this view you reflect is very close to the mystic Sufi trend.

[Answer] We look on mysticism as a retreat with God and as a behavioral pattern of the tranquil and selfless life. That is why I admire Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Badawi, who called his book about Rabi 'a al-'Adawiyah "The Martyr of the Divine Love." The fact is that, in general, the spiritual life is but an exchange of one passion for another. The passion of a relationship with God replaces the passion for the world and its temporal things. Hence, selflessness is the more appropriate step for adhering to God. The more man gets a taste of the love of God, the less the love of the world becomes in his eyes. This is what the hermits call the virtue of dying from the world, which means the world totally dying in the heart of man, thus attaining what is called eternal prayer without being bound to specific dates because the whole time is for God alone.

[Question] Love of life is what motivates man to work for it. Consequently, if he were to go into seclusion and take shelter with God, he would never work for the material life which differs in its adversities and circumstances from the environment of divine seclusion.

[Answer] That is why not all people can live the monastic or the mystic life. This life is confined to a few who prefer a life of meditation, a life of tranquility and a life of prayer. As for the work aspect, I ask you a question which perhaps answers your question: "What will people do in the eternal life, in the hereafter?" Surely they will have nothing to do but enjoy God. A man who devotes himself to God and does not work provides an opportunity for God to work by him and in him.

[Question] Despite the solitude, the seclusion with God, his holiness the pope works, especially since he oversees the affairs of the entire church?

[Answer] That is why monks, who liked to be alone with God, used to shun this and similar positions. As Saint Versanius said in declining to meet with guest monks who would have interrupted his solitude: "God knows I love you all, but my talking with God does not leave me a chance to talk to people."

Anyhow, solitude is a degree not experienced by the general public. Therefore, if a small group of society lived such a life, it would not have a general influence on society as a whole and would not, therefore, affect the wheels of work or the framework of responsibilities. The advantage of an eye in peaceful vision does not preclude the existence of a foot moving here or there or a hand working at many things. The eye remains an eye in its vision and it does not aim to become a foot or a hand.

[Question] Throughout the long history, I wonder if Christianity witnessed the same far-reaching, heavy martyrdom as Islam?

[Answer] Christianity rose as a religion calling for the true God. It was inevitable that it should clash with the then-prevalent paganism with all its different worship and philosophies. It also clashed with the ruling Roman Empire with all its ruthlessness. Among the most violent emperors to persecute the Christians in the worst way was Nero. All the disciples of Christ were killed, thus earning the crown of martyrdom. Indeed, most priests used to face the same fate in addition to various kinds of torture and

imprisonment. Christ's disciples, after being flogged, left prison happy that they were worthy of being abused in the name of God. Christians used to accept martyrdom with a light heart. The desire to be martyred dominated that period.

[Question] Can you give some examples?

[Answer] We hear, for instance, that in Emperor Diocletian's era, 30,000 people went from Damanhur to Alexandria chanting and praising God in the streets because they were on their way to be martyred. It was said that Abba "Fam al-Jundi," that when Iryanus, the governor of Insana--Malawi now--came to their village, he donned his best clothes and mounted his horse to go to die as a martyr. When he was asked about that, he said: "It is a wedding day."

In the Diocletian era (284 A.D.), the Christians went through the gravest period of martyrdom. It came to pass that an entire country was subjected to killing and extermination. History mentions martyrs Ikhmim, Isna and the Theban Corps. During that time, St Mina, St Jirjis and others were martyred. The Coptic Church began its calendar, which was called the martyrs' calendar. The martyrs were also enticed with high positions. Saint Jirjis was invited to the emperor's palace for discussions and Empress Alexandra began talking to him. He was able to convince her to believe and she did, rejecting paganism. Her husband, Emperor Diocletian, killed her and ended up going crazy; Nero also died crazy. The desire for martyrdom on the part of the faithful won over the desire for blood by the emperors. During that time, we note the martyrdom of some children who rejected paganism when they were about 4 years old, such as "Abanub" and "Qiryaqus." The martyrs' courage prompted many pagans to believe.

[Question] On another level, can you cite stands that represent the peak of close and deep-rooted brotherliness experience by Islam and Christianity and the care Islam bestowed on the causes of the People of the Book, the Christians and Jews?

[Answer] When Islam came to Egypt, the pope had been banished from his seat for many, many years. He was roaming the cities and the villages to instill faith in the people. However, the governor of Egypt, 'Amr Ibn al-'As, summoned him to hand over to him the churches he had freed from the Romans who were driven out. He treated him with respect and affection. This was a magnificent beginning for Muslim-Christian relations.

[Question] Can your Holiness cite some aspects of good treatment of Christians and Jews in the eras when the rulers were known for their fairness and affection?

[Answer] I can cite some; in the forefront of which were:

1--The eras of safety bestowed upon the Dhimmis [non-Muslims] and their churches, monasteries and properties. The prophetic tradition says: "He who hurts a Dhimmi hurts me." It also says: "Mean well towards the Copts for we have lineage and kinship with them." Perhaps this is what is meant in "Maria the Copt" and her son Abraham.

2--Another tale of good treatment is the story of Caliph 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab who, upon entering Jerusalem, was invited by its bishop, right around prayer time, to enter the church. 'Umar declined "least the Muslims come and take it away from you on the pretext that 'Umar worshipped here.'" He preferred to pray and worship a little distance away from the church, in the same spot where the Mosque of 'Umar was built next to the Church of the Resurrection. This was a magnificent principle of inter-relations.

3--Muslim rulers who treated Christians well were keen on safeguarding the Christian rites in pursuance of the Koranic verse that says: "Let there be no compulsion in religion," and also according to the saying "if the Dhimmis come to you, judge them according to their religion."

4--Another manifestation of good treatment was the important positions the Christians held in government, going on high as the cabinet in the Fatimid era. Furthermore, many Christians controlled the treasuries and others were doctors trusted by rulers and caliphs.

5--A manifestation of justice is the story of Caliph 'Umar when he sat in judgment to resolve a dispute between the imam and a Jew. History has many resplendent and radiant examples of Muslims looking after the interests of the People of the Book.

And in calling on the Muslims to love and respect the People of the Book, the Lord said in al-'Umrah Surah: "Of the People of the Book are a portion that stand (for the right); they rehearse the signs of God all night long, and prostrate themselves in adoration. They believe in God and the Last Day; they enjoin what is wrong and hasten (in emulation) in (all) good works, they are in the ranks of the righteous."

[Question] What about the manifestation of brotherliness and love between Christianity and Islam throughout history up to the modern time?

[Answer] The manifestations of brotherliness and love between Christianity and Islam are many and varied. There is the stand of the Copts during the Crusades when they joined their Muslim brothers in Egypt to fight the Crusaders, who had no right to invade our country. A manifestation of this friendly relationship is what transpired during the 1919 revolution when Muslims and Christians worked very closely together to get rid of the usurping foreign occupier. At that time, they raised the banner of the cross with the crescent and the phrase: "Religion is for God and the country is for all." Another manifestation of amity and deep friendship is the relationship between the governors and the patriarchs, as in the days of the Fatimid al-Mu'izz-li-Din Allah, and the fact that the Ibn Tulun Mosque was built by a Christian engineer; add to that the fact that many Muslim governors used to celebrate the Christian Epiphany. It was said the Muhammad Taghj al-Akhshidi used to celebrate this day on the Nile Island with 1,000 lamps around him. So the manifestations of brotherliness between Islam and Christianity are evident and splendid, reflecting a spirit of tolerance, love and friendship.

[Question] What are your aspirations for the Christian people and your responsibilities toward the Christians?

[Answer] All I want for the Christians is for them to become closer to God and inherit His eternal kingdom. This is the spiritual goal on which we are concentrating in all our actions as men of the cloth. My responsibility in this regard is focused on providing the necessary spiritual guidance, particularly in view of the vacant parish seats due to the death of bishops, and to take care of our people overseas by sending bishops to organize their affairs there. Also, I have to put the canonical laws in order and classify them in accordance with essential church concerns.

[Question] Do you believe in the total separation of church and state or can they be paired together?

[Answer] Your question may need some rephrasing. Perhaps you mean the separation of politics and religion because religion is man's relationship with God and no politician in this world can live a purely secular life totally removed from God. The politician does not separate himself from religion. What is meant by separation of church and state is that religion should not deal in politics, especially since the clergy in general do not have time to devote to politics and their spiritual duties do not allow them one minute for other things. However, a clergyman must bear witness to the truth and bearing witness to the truth is not a political act. They have the right to speak the word of God and the word of truth in the process of things because they are not separated from their country and society. So, expressing an opinion is one thing, and working in politics is something else. A clergyman does not join political parties because he is supposed to love everyone. Neither does he lead a political action because his true intrinsic work is spiritual.

[Question] What is your relationship with the religious council and can you give us an idea about the Coptic church's democracy?

[Answer] The religious council is headed by the pope. This is not limited to our church alone, but extends to all the churches of the world on the basis that the pope, or the patriarch or religious chief is the head of the faith, and therefore the head of its religious council. Consequently, the pope is chosen through election by the people and so is the religious council. In other words, the two have the people's wish and choice in common.

In all the past years, I used to chair the religious council meetings personally. We never issued a decision that was not unanimous. On this account, and in the absence of unanimity, we used to defer the matter for awhile for further study and debate and the examination of other ideas that may be put forth. So all our decisions were unanimous.

[Question] What about the Coptic church's democracy.

[Answer] The Coptic church's democracy is ample. All its pastors and servants, be they priests, bishops, patriarchs or the pope himself, are chosen by the people. Moreover, in ordaining any bishop, I tour the country to

solicit the opinion of the entire population: men, women and children. I also seek the opinion of all occupations, religious and secular alike. If all agree on one particular person, he gets selected. Hence, the pope has never imposed anyone on them. They are always the ones who nominate and select an individual.

The same thing goes for the priests. They are selected by the pronouncement of all the people. Some may sign a pronouncement out of fear, diffidence or ignorance, but when we meet the people face to face, we find out what they really think about the candidate.

The church is democratic in selecting its pastor as it is democratic in its internal administration. Every church has a council in al-'Alamayn to look after its administrative and fiscal affairs in cooperation with the priest. The church also has its constitution and its law which no one is allowed to breach. This is what gives the people the freedom to everything, provided that they obey and respect the clergy.

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EGYPT

AL-UMMAH PARTY CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES VARIOUS ISSUES

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 16

/Interview with Ahmad al-Sabahi, chairman of al-Ummah Party: "Chairman of al-Ummah Party Opens Fire on All; Muslim Brotherhood Has Sold Everything, Grouping Is Communist, Wafd Is Secular, Labor and Liberals Are Remnants of Socialist Union"/

/Text/ This man has perplexed everybody in Egypt. He is not pleased with the Egyptian parties. In his opinion, the Wafd Party is secular, the Grouping is communist and Labor and the Liberals are remnants of the Socialist Union. The party that possesses a magic wand for solving all of Egypt's problems is the new al-Ummah Party, which was born exactly 18 months ago.

When I headed for the furnished apartment which is the headquarters of al-Ummah Party in al-Sayyidah Zaynab Quarter in Cairo to interview Ahmad al-Sabahi, the party chairman, I found myself at a loss as to how to address him. Some call him al-rayyis /chief/ by virtue of his capacity as the party chairman. Some call him "hajj," considering that he has performed the pilgrimage to Mecca more than once, some call him "captain" by virtue of his starting the "rocket ball" game and others call him "shyakh" because he is a graduate of al-Azhar and has grown his beard.

I will not hide the fact that I found myself facing a man with numerous ideas and interests, in addition to his originating a sports game. I found him speaking of applying the Shari'a with great zeal, saying: "Applying the Islamic Shari'a in all spheres of life is the party's main objective."

Moreover, al-Sabahi is a man who believes in fate and tries to "rationalize" matters according to his special concept of fate.

Party Born a Giant

/Question/ Al-Ummah Party emerged on a decision by the just Egyptian judiciary. The question is: Has this party, like the other parties, obtained a subsidy and a headquarters from the government?

/Answer/ The decision was issued by the State Council's Higher Administrative Court, which is the highest judicial authority in Egypt, declaring al-Ummah

Party legal. The decision was an epic in the face of time. The party was born a giant in the court hall. But when it emerged into the light, neither the government nor the Egyptian political parties paid it any attention. Rather, the press, both government and partisan press, received the party with strong denunciations. I submitted more than one request to the late Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din to provide us with a headquarters because we occupy a furnished apartment from which we will be evicted in 5 months. But everybody "turned a deaf ear to us." The government has forgotten or pretended to forget that God is the provider. What is more, the government stood against us, heaping accusations upon us, accusations to the effect that we are a party with no popular bases and that we are the party of fortune telling and of the rocket ball. God knows that we are as innocent of these charges as is the wolf of Joseph's blood. Therefore, we will ask the government for nothing. God has enriched us with His abundance, and may God be thanked.

(Al-Sabahi also said:) There are two real parties in Egypt, namely al-Ummah and the Wafd. As for the other parties, they are government parties created by the Arab Socialist Union, may it rest in peace.

I Am Not Pasha and Not Rich

Question Hajj Ahmad al-Sabahi, how did the idea of forming a party develop in your mind?

Answer When the late President Anwar al-Sadat, who was a sincere man, announced the establishment of a democratic system of government in Egypt, he amended the constitution and changed Art 5 of this constitution to make it state that Egypt's system is founded on the principle of the multiplicity of political parties. The idea of forming a party occurred to me at the time. Believe me, I am not a pasha and I am not rich. I am a common man. God has employed and directed me toward this action. The idea was mine alone but God has recruited many who support me. When I submitted my application to the Political Parties Committee, I discovered that everybody found it too much for Ahmad al-Sabahi to have a party and finally they refused to permit a declaration of the party because its founder is an ordinary man. But God supported us and we succeeded. We have preserved this success and have issued the semi-monthly AL-UMMAH paper which will be issued weekly in the near future. I want to tell you that all the parties are standing still, except for al-Ummah Party which is gaining more than 200 new members a month. Moreover, AL-UMMAH, our paper, is the most courageous partisan paper in publishing reports which the other papers cannot publish.

It Is No Concern of Mine

Question Let us leave aside al-Ummah Party for a while and speak about the Muslim Brotherhood. Do you expect the Brotherhood to break away from the Wafd and will it come to al-Ummah Party?

Answer I have had nothing to do with the Brotherhood since I offered the party's chairmanship to 'Umar al-Talmasani and he turned it down. Therefore, the Wafd and the Brotherhood are no concern of mine. They are free. They have

joined each other for certain interests. Their cooperation is unacceptable to the Shari'a. The Brotherhood has refused to join al-Ummah Party which calls for applying the Islamic Shari'a and joined al-Wafd Party, even though it is a secular party, with the aim of gaining a "seat" in the parliament. The Brotherhood has done nothing, except for a number of memoranda prepared by Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il on applying the Shari'a. But Mumtax Nassar, the leader of the Wafdist opposition, has refused to submit the memorandum saying that the party's circumstances do not permit the presentation of such a memorandum /to the parliament/. The Muslim Brotherhood has sold its past, present and future by joining the Wafd. It is free to do whatever it wishes. But God will task it for its actions on the day of resurrection because it knows that the Wafd is secular and can never demand applying the Islamic Shari'a.

Islam and Partisanship

/Question/ Al-Ummah Party has emanated from an Islamic premise. The question is: What is Islam's position on partisanship?

/Answer/ Islam does not reject partisanship. However, it calls for unity--"and all of you hold unto God's rope and do not be divided." Some say that the religious associations are religiously legal whereas the parties are not, even though the parties are a magnified replica of these associations. A party is tantamount to a group of people with a program based on Islam for the good of the group.

/Question/ What is the party's connection with the rocket ball?

/Answer/ God has given the party countless blessings and talents. The rocket ball is something with which God inspired me in my sleep. I sent a message to the minister of education on this game after laying down its rules. I was surprised to find the minister of education mobilize all of the ministry's resources for the game. But my colleagues met me with strong derision even though the minister of education has given me 25 pounds as an award!

Man Was Joking

/Question/ Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party chairman said that he will support al-Ummah Party. Has such support actually materialized?

/Answer/ Mustafa Kamil Murad has given us no support. The man was joking, believe me. A party chairman can offer nothing to the chairman of a rival party. Generally, we are now richer than the Liberal Party. God is the giver. Can you believe that the government provides a monthly subsidy of 7,000 pounds to the Liberal Party whereas it has not given us a single mil /a red cent/!

/Question/ Does your party accept the Muslim /fundamentalist/ groups?

/Answer/ We accept no groups, only individuals. We accept any citizen, be he Muslim or Christian, as long as he meets the requirements and approved al-Ummah Party's program. We are not a party of currents. We are a single current and an Islamic party that demands the application of the Islamic Shari'a by virtue

of its being the only refuge for solving our problems. The Islamic groups are welcome as individuals but not--and a thousand times not--as groups.

Question Do you have anything else you want to say?

Answer No, thank you.

8494

CSO: 4504/229

EGYPT

MINISTER OF INTERIOR DISCUSSES VARIOUS DOMESTIC SECURITY ISSUES

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Jan 85 p 3

/Interview with Ahmad Rushdi, minister of interior, by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qaddus: "Hot Dialogue with Minister of Interior: Era of Torture Has Ended; Judiciary Are in Charge of Interrogating and Convicting Torturing Henchmen"; date and place not specified/

/Text/ Since the current opposition newspapers appeared, every minister of interior has firmly refused to speak to the partisan press reflecting counter opinions. On the contrary, every minister has looked askance at these papers and has felt it his duty to create problems for them and wished that they would shut down today rather than tomorrow.

Ahmad Rushdi, the minister of interior, has dropped this outdated view of the opposition press and has agreed for the first time to speak to AL-WAFD and to let the paper ask him all the questions it has in its bag without any restraint.

The interview took place at his office in the Ministry of Interior before midnight. There, police officers Muhammad Hijazi and Ahmad Shakir, who are in charge of the minister's office, received me with smiles as if I were a friend and not an opposition journalist.

I then met Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi, the minister, who received me warmly, saying: "I have no objection to answering any question. Ask whatever you wish and take your time." At the outset, the minister of interior explained his reasons for agreeing to give his first interview to an opposition paper, saying that one who holds the position of minister of interior must be accountable to all. "There is no distinction between one party and another or one citizen and another because of political affiliation, as long as they stay within the bounds of legitimacy and of the supremacy of the law. Therefore, I have no sensitivity to being interviewed by any paper, be it an opposition or a national paper. All are equal to me."

It was natural that my first question would be about torture and about the officers responsible for it. To start, I addressed to Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi a question he had not expected, saying: "When you were appointed minister of interior, many bid democracy in Egypt a last farewell. I was one of those and we all expected a wave of suppression because you are well known for your

firmness and strictness. The biggest surprise is that torture has stopped under your administration and no arrests have been made so far. What has happened? Have the years changed you?"

The minister laughed, saying: "Meaning that when I came you said: We are gone to hell." He added: This is not the way things are. The common proverb says: 'Do you know so and so and so? Yes, I know him. Have you associated with him? No. Then you don't know him.' The true evaluation of any person comes through contact, association and action."

I said: "Everybody who has known you closely asserts that you are firm and strict."

He answered: "Firm, yes, Strict, no. Strictness may be misused. I am firm in order that the performance may be good. I am firm on what is right and I am firm on any violations of the law. I have not changed because firmness is in my nature."

People Are Guarantee

Question All attest that torture and arrests have stopped under your administration. But what is the guarantee that this situation will continue, especially after you leave the ministry?

Answer (He said succinctly:) The people are the guarantee. Anybody straying in this regard deserves to be brought to account. We are now employing scientific methods in the sphere of investigation, discovery of crime and interrogation. There will be no chance for any individual excesses. We always advocate good treatment of the citizen and preservation of the citizen's dignity.

Question You say that anybody who strays deserves to be brought to account. There are officers who have strayed and yet nobody has brought them to account. Rather, they are still in their positions.

Answer You are asking me about something that is beyond my jurisdiction. I am not the one who brings the person at fault to account, if he has actually committed a fault. The judiciary is the party that brings him to account. It is not in my power to decide whether the officer stays or leaves.

Interesting Dialogue

Question The judiciary has proven decisively that torture has been perpetrated. This has been proven by the court which tried the defendants in al-Jihad case and the court which has tried the defendants in the case of the leftist organization. Despite this, no changes have been made in the State Security Intelligence or in the Prison Authority. I had expected that anybody engulfed in suspicions would be removed and that "new blood" having nothing to do with the torture incidents would be brought in. But nothing of the sort has happened. Why?

Answer Instead, I will ask you: why should I make a change? There is a common proverb which says: "Water belies the diver." I see what is in front of me. Are there incidents of torture or excesses for which to bring people to account and in order that I may make changes and transfers? I assure you that there is nothing of the sort.

Question I am talking of the torture incidents that occurred before you became minister.

Answer Neither you nor I have the right to discuss this issue. Investigations are underway and have not been completed yet and the matter is ultimately left to these investigations. We respect the decisions of the judiciary and a person is innocent until he is proven guilty. I may not at all convict a person in advance.

Question But the continued stay of persons suspected of perpetrating torture in their positions may influence the course of the investigation. Moreover, the ministry may act to protect such persons, especially if they are high-ranking officers who may also influence the investigation.

Answer (He said calmly:) This question is totally rejected. Nobody can interfere at all in the legal and judicial procedures.

Question Should the judiciary convict a number of officers in the torture incidents, what would your position be?

Answer (He said without hesitation:) I will respect the opinion of the judiciary, and I cannot but respect the judiciary's decision.

Question (I exploited the minister's tolerance and patience with me to ask him anew:) How could the officers who used torture understand the supremacy of the law and implement the law?

Answer (Still maintaining his calm, he answered:) The musicians play as the maestro wishes. Let me repeat: Do not judge anything on suspicions. A defendant is innocent until he is proven guilty.

Ban on Travel

Question I liked this "musical" answer and was satisfied with it and so turned to a new issue, saying to Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi: there is a complaint regarding the ban on travel. Thousands of citizens are prohibited from traveling abroad for political reasons. What do you say?

Answer The constitution guarantees citizens the freedom of movement. This movement is governed by nothing other than some "controls" dictated by the country's supreme interest. There is no hostility or enmity between the security agencies and any citizen.

Question But travel is banned for thousands of people. So how could this be governed by nothing more than some "controls"?

Answer Don't judge things by their general appearances. Everybody concerned may inquire to find out if they are thousands, hundreds or tens. But those banned are not as many as you imagine.

Question How long will this ban continue?

Answer This ban is governed by legal and security controls. It is not general and not indiscriminate.

Question There are those who believe that the entire religious current is denied travel.

Answer Why do we take things by their general appearance and say that the entire religious current is denied travel? This is unreasonable. There are individuals who are actually banned from traveling. Logic dictates that we inquire about the reasons for banning them rather than exaggerate and say that the entire religious current is banned from traveling.

Question I began to argue with the minister, exploiting his patience to ask: by what logic or justice is a person banned from going to Saudi Arabia to perform the greater or minor pilgrimage, for example?

Answer (He answered me with ice-cold nerves:) Brother, we only ban those whom necessity dictates banning in order that we may achieve the security and stability required by Egypt's interest.

Question My information is that those banned are large in number, at least 3,000 of them.

Answer This is incorrect. If, for the sake of argument, I concede your figure, then what percentage does this figure represent to the 47 million Egyptians? You know that there are numerous tendencies of which you are well aware.

Question I went on arguing with the minister, without his getting angry or protesting, and said: how long will these people continue to be banned from traveling?

Answer This ban is not permanent. It is imposed temporarily because of security reasons and of the country's supreme interest.

Question What is the crime of those banned from travel? Is their crime the fact that they are engaged in religious activity, that they love Islam and work to serve it?

Answer (He answered without protesting the hot nature of the question, maintaining his ice-cold nerves:) I don't understand the meaning of this question. Are they the only ones who love Islam? Of course not. We all love Islam and acknowledge the other divine religions. Listen, the Egyptian people are pious people and Egypt is the stronghold of Islam. What is rejected is

peddling and radicalism in the name of this religion because such peddling and radicalism are not at all in the interest of religion. In this regard, there are diverse currents: currents which believe in violence and currents which believe in revolution. There is instigation and there is a casting of doubts. In whose interest is this? I don't know. You write: "You have your religion and I have mine."

Question / The ban on travel is imposed in accordance with the emergency law. So how is it said that this law is used within the narrowest limits only?

Answer / The emergency law has nothing to do with this ban. The ban on travel has been in existence for decades, even before the July revolution. It is imposed in accordance with the passport law which permits a ban on travel and blacklisting. I assure you that there is no ban in the sense that you imagine. I want every citizen to rest assured.

Harassment of Mosques

Question / I then turned in my interview with the minister of interior to another issue, namely the issue of surveillance and the harassment of the mosques. The minister said in this regard: a mosque is God's house and it is supposed to be a place for preaching religion and not for political oratory, for defaming "this or that person" or for innovations incompatible with religion's tolerance and with the mosque's message.

Question / Does it please you to see the intelligence agency recording what the mosque imams say?

Answer / Why would the intelligence agency record it when microphones make it heard across the street?

Question / Perhaps so that the imams may be then summoned to the intelligence offices to be confronted with what they say?

Answer / No mosque imams are summoned and I am responsible for these words because they will be published.

Question / We have reported in AL-WAFD that the imam of al-Mahattah Mosque in Basyun, al-Gharbiyah Governorate, was arrested.

Answer / It must have been done at the request of the public prosecutor. An arrest is made at the prosecutor's request, that is if the incident is true, as you say. The imam may have been arrested for a reason unrelated to his job as a mosque preacher.

I asked Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi about the imams banned from preaching and he said he could not answer this question for a simple reason, namely that the Ministry of Interior does not interfere in mosque affairs. Therefore, it has nothing to do with banning any mosque imam from performing his duty, if such a ban has actually been imposed.

They Complained to Minister

Question The interview with the minister of interior turned anew to the State Security Intelligence. I told the minister that this agency's powers are broad and that it interferes in state affairs to the degree that it can prevent the appointment of a person to a job he deserves just because such a person's tendency does not please the agency.

Answer Why do you attribute this to the security agency. Isn't it possible that the authority concerned objected to such an appointment?

Question But this objection comes at the request of the security agency.

Answer I do not like to speak in generalities. Give specific examples and cite incidents in order that we may discuss them and see security's real role. We are in the phase of democracy and freedom of which you are all aware. There is absolutely no place for casting doubts.

Question Then is it possible for any person banned by the security agencies from holding a job he deserves to complain to you and will you do such a person justice?

Answer Of course, if he is in the right. It is my task to work for the people's comfort and protection. Write on my behalf that my door is open to anybody who has a complaint in this regard.

Don't Be Pessimistic over Future

Question I asked Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi about the emergency law, saying: you say that you use it only within the narrowest limits. Well then, what about the future? Who guarantees that this situation will continue?

Answer We have the constitutional institutions and the people's representatives who are empowered to exercise control over the constitutional institutions.

Question Is this enough? It is my opinion that the emergency law is a brandished sword that may be used on a large scale at any time.

Answer Why do you view the future with such pessimism? Why don't you view it optimistically? Why don't we trust ourselves and our actions and why does doubt always conquer us? In whose interest is all this?

Question Is it because the emergency law itself is a danger?

Answer Have you, who are a journalist, personally felt its danger?

Question Yes, I felt its danger until you became minister of interior and torture and arrests were ended.

Answer I wonder: who fears the emergency law? It is the one who plans to engage in an act devoid of patriotism, nationalism and legitimacy and to do so easily and freely.

As for the ordinary citizen, he has no fear of this law.

(The minister of interior added:) We have a drug law which imposes stiff penalties for drug trafficking. So why aren't the voices rising against it? The answer is that only drug traffickers fear this law.

Question Permit me, there is a big difference between the drug law and the emergency law because the latter can be used against any political activity.

Answer Brother, we are living under the canopy of a democracy unprecedented before or since the July 1952 revolution. The emergency law is a permit given us and which we use honestly. If there is an excess or misconduct, then the constitutional institutions are present to correct them.

Issue of Discipline

Question I turned the interview to the issue of discipline in the Egyptian street and I asked him about the secret behind his strong interest in this issue.

Answer Discipline begun in the Egyptian street is just an inlet to numerous branches of the "discipline" that is supposed to extend to all the state agencies and to influence all the noncommittal patterns of behavior, meaning that every citizen should be committed in his activity and relationship with the others and committed in his work and production. Through all this, we seek to revive the real personality of the Egyptian man to whose capability and commitment history has attested throughout the ages.

Question But discipline relies so far on the security men and their presence on the street and does not emanate from the conduct of the citizen himself. This is why I fear that this entire discipline will collapse as soon as you leave the Ministry of Interior in the future.

Answer I do not fear that discipline will collapse because the matter pertains to the citizen himself primarily. The people know their interests and distinguish good from bad. Any movement in the sphere of discipline is ultimately in the interest of the people's masses.

Deep in my heart, I am not pleased with these large numbers of policemen who are present in the street. I believe that it is an improper and an uncivilized manifestation. The Egyptian citizen is more vigilant than to be directed by the police for a long time. I am confident that the time will come soon when the conduct of most citizens will emanate from deep personal conviction without the need for policemen. I appeal to all citizens to abide by this disciplined conduct as of now.

Central Security Is Second Army

Question The conclusion concerned the central security and I said to the minister of interior: its size has become enormous, as if it were a second army.

/Answer/ And what in this disturbs the opposition? The opposition must be happy with the presence of an enormous force protecting the country's security. The opposition puzzles me. If we prepare our means to safeguard security, they ask, why all this preparation and if we fail, they say, why the failure?

/Question/ But the central security force is used primarily to confront demonstrations and to suppress them cruelly, as happened with al-Azhar students.

/Answer/ The central security's task is not to suppress demonstrations, as you say. It has numerous other tasks connected with Egypt's safety and with safeguarding its security. Moreover, it is not true that al-Azhar demonstrations were suppressed cruelly.

/Question/ A large number of students were injured by the central security.

/Answer/ Sorry, not a single student was hurt in al-Azhar incidents.

Concluding his words on the central security, the minister of interior asserted that the central security soldiers and officers are honorable citizens performing their duty in the best manner. The opposition is required to help them in this instead of casting doubts on the noble tasks they perform.

8494
CSO: 4504/231

MOROCCO

PPS DEPUTIES SPEAK ON AGRICULTURAL BUDGET

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 4 Jan 85 pp 1, 3

[Text] As announced in our editorial on the day preceding these speeches, we are beginning today to carry the texts of the various addresses given by PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism] deputies on the ministerial budgets included within the 1985 Finance Law.

The following thus contains the critical analysis and the proposals set forth by Ismail Alaoui, Politburo member and deputy representing the PPS from Ben Hsen on the subject of the budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MARA).

Mr President, Mr Minister, and beloved colleagues:

It falls to us today to study the budget assigned to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. In view of the importance of this sector to the future of the country, the following comments and criticisms should be made.

The Equipment Budget

The overall amount of the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture comes to 1,633,946,000 dirhams, which is up 15 percent over that for 1983 (1,651,651,520 dirhams) and down 14 percent from that for 1982 (1.9 billion dirhams).

This is a budget which remains characterized by the same guidelines as in the past, in no way taking into account the situation caused by the many years of drought experienced by the farm sector.

Thus the irrigated zones under the Regional Farm Development Offices (ORMVA) continue as in the past to get the lion's share of the overall ministerial allocation, although these zones account for only 10 percent of the cultivated land in Morocco.

In fact, the ORMVA have been given more than 820 million dirhams, 50 percent of the global payment credit (and 37 percent of the long-term commitment credit).

The integrated uncultivated land projects are often presented as evidence of the new strategy for ministerial action with a view to rebalancing in favor of the long neglected fallow zones, although they will not receive more than 106.7 million dirhams, or barely 6.5 percent of the global payment credit. It is true that this rate goes to 16 percent for the credit which does not involve long-term commitments, which suggests that the real rebalancing of state action for the fallow zones is being postponed until the years to come!

In fact, the credit allocations for the new project in 1985 only total the small amount of 13 million dirhams, or barely 12 percent of the amount for this category.

Another evidence of the continuation of the choices of the past regarding the priority, the full priority, given the irrigated zones, is found in the portion of the ORMVA credit allocated to the fallow zones under these offices, which is only 2.5 percent, with a total of a little over 20 million dirhams.

In addition, an analysis of the credit allocated for small and average water projects obviously shows that this budget is far from one consistent with the current situation in the rural sector, which is characterized by the nefarious effects of a drought which has lasted between 5 and 6 years.

In fact, the development of small and average water projects (PMH) is not only a means of combatting the social and regional disparities in the rural sector, but also an effective means of combatting drought, particularly since the potential of the country in this sector is very substantial. This kind of project offers the advantage of utilizing much manpower and being relatively uncapitalistic.

Now if an effort has in fact been made in this direction, it has however remained very limited in comparison to the needs and the potential of the country.

For example the credit allocated to the PMH (both under the ORMVA and those under the rural equipment office) comes to 172 million dirhams only, or 10.5 percent of the overall MARA budget.

It should be emphasized that only a symbolic sum within this category is allocated for the specific battle against drought--25 million dirhams.

Another inconsistency in the budget is the portion allocated for livestock breeding.

Livestock-credit, both that included in the MVA category and the allocation to the livestock breeding office, comes to a total of 160.5 million dirhams only, or less than 10 percent of the MARA credit. And this is to deal with the sector which has suffered the most from the drought, and which represents no less than 30 percent of the gross domestic product from farm sources.

Within this category, the health grid line, which covers all prophylactic operations for livestock, the importance of which is known to all, has been

given an allocation of only 21.4 million dirhams, or 15 percent of the live-stock budget, and only 1 dirham per head of livestock (3.6 million cattle, 14.3 million sheep and 5.7 million goats).

From another point of view, an analysis of the other budget categories submitted to the chamber also shows that the underlying economic guidelines are not equal to the extreme seriousness of the socioeconomic situation in the rural sector and the deterioration seen in conditions of life for the majority of the peasantry.

For example, when it comes to the subsidies for the farm sector, the amount included for promoting vegetable production is 110 million dirhams (or 48 percent of the credit for the vegetable production office, and more than the allocation made for integrated uncultivated land projects).

A half of this amount, or 55 million dirhams, is reserved for subsidies for operational equipment (purchase of tractors and harvesters--46 million dirhams, and planting 9 million dirhams). Now it is a secret to no one that these subsidies go in fact to a privileged minority made up of large farmers.

On the other hand, 37 million dirhams are allocated as subsidies for the use of selected seed, which also, and taking the way in which the seed is distributed into account, go to profit the comfortable strata of the peasantry in fact, while the majority of the poor peasants are deprived of selected seeds at the beginning of each farm season, and are forced to pay high prices for them on the speculative market.

Again within this framework, it should be noted that as compared to the substantial amount of subsidies, the allocation for aid to small farmers in the arid zones is but a miserable 2.5 million dirhams.

On the other hand, when it comes to the category of economic equipment, which can play a very important role in creating jobs in the rural sector, only the niggardly sum of 11.5 million dirhams, or only 0.7 percent of the total budget, has been allocated (economic equipment, general budget and economic equipment for the ORMVA).

In this category, 650 million dirhams is indeed included for the construction of silos, but...in credit to be paid out later. This is a capital project for the country, in view of the problems arising acutely every year in connection with stocking grains and organizing grain imports, and above all the establishment of safety stocks for this strategic category of goods.

It is also a project of which there has been talk for a number of years, and which we now see postponed again.

With regard to the water projects and forests office, which can play a substantial role in creating jobs in the rural sector and in the battle against the effects of the drought, the credit allocation is not consistent with the need.

For example, reforestation, forest protection and soil rehabilitation operations have been allocated only 37.4 and 12.3 million dirhams, respectively, or, taken together, only 3 percent of the overall budget allocation, while operations to improve pastureland, for their part, are assigned less than 800,000 dirhams, although the drought which the country has experienced has revealed the fragility of our pastureland and the need to improve it to safeguard our herds.

Another important long-term aspect of our country's agriculture is agronomic research, the development of which can contribute greatly to improving the level of our food security.

Now the budget under study does not seem to take this aspect into account, since the INRA [National Institute of Agronomic Research] has been given only 27 million dirhams, less by 5 percent than the sum which was already allocated in 1982. This amount represents only 1.6 percent of the total credit for the ministry.

Moreover, with regard to this institute, it seems that the sponsoring authorities are about to amputate a sizable area from its real-property assets (there is talk of 5,000 hectares out of the 8,000 it currently has). If this proves true, it would be exceptionally serious, since because of the climatic diversity, the complexity of the agronomic problems and the relative lag in our research in these sectors, the INRA needs all of its current assets and an increase in its material and human resources if it is to be able to cope with the major, indeed strategic, tasks which fall to it.

In conclusion, it seems that the proposed budget submitted for evaluation by the Chamber of Representatives does not correspond to the needs and requirements of the current situation in the rural sector, and is entirely inconsistent with the legitimate aspirations of the majority of the peasantry.

A more substantial effort should be pursued to benefit the fallow zones include the vast majority of the rural population and which account for 90 percent of the cultivated area in our country, particularly since these are the zones which have been the most direct target of the droughts.

The same effort should be pursued in connection with livestock breeding, which makes a basic contribution to the economy of the small peasantry and which, it should be remembered, accounts for a third of the gross domestic production of the farm sector.

A special effort should also be oriented toward expanding and developing small and average water projects, in order to limit the effects of the drought in the arid and semi-arid regions and to guarantee development which is balanced among the various regions of the country.

Special importance should be assigned to all the activities designed to combat the effects of the drought and the critical economic situation in our rural sector. This will involve in particular economic equipment, operations to protect and rehabilitate soils, reforestation and the improvement of pastureland.

In addition and among the activities of an urgent nature in connection with the agricultural department, it is necessary to derive every benefit from the favorable weather conditions which prevailed during the beginning of the farm season, by providing:

--all of the aid needed by the small peasantry to complete the farm tasks. In this connection, one might ask, despite its limitations, why the (touiza) operation was suspended, and

--all of the means needed to provide the majority of the peasants, small peasants in particular, with seed and fertilizer.

Now the current supplies of selected seeds, totaling about 450,000 quintals, fall far short of the need, and their distribution, as usual, is characterized by favoritism, diversion and speculation, such that the poorer strata of the peasantry who need the seed most are deprived, to the sole benefit of the more prosperous strata.

These are a few of the specific propositions which might bring the MARA budget up to the level of the situation experienced in the rural sector and by the peasantry.

Alteration of the general situation in the farm sector, however, remains conditional upon a radical change in the official policy pursued today, which has demonstrated its limitations and its inability to guarantee food security for the country.

The problem lies not with the dismantling of the SODEA [Agricultural Development Company] and the SOGETA [Agricultural Land Management Company] to the benefit of a few privileged large landowners, but well and truly with the resolution of the structural hindrances, to benefit broad strata of the peasantry, and a drastic reorientation of the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Operational Budget

With regard to personnel, it should be noted that plans call for only 206 jobs for monthly technicians and 121 for regular workers, in addition to 227 civil service posts, as of 1 January 1985.

Now there are about a thousand individuals who graduated with honors from the technical schools in the summer of 1984 and who have still not been hired (including technical assistants and agents, practical and state sector engineers).

Therefore, not even 50 percent of these prize-winning graduates (206 plus 227, or 433) have been "situuated."

And among those lucky enough to find jobs, what will the choice be like between direct hiring for the 206 jobs and civil service hiring (227 jobs), which is new for the MARA, since agricultural technicians were not previously included in this department?

It seems that the ministry is moving toward the conversion of all jobs to civil service. In such a case, what will be the fate of these cadres after 2 years, when they have completed their service?

And what, finally, will be the fate of the 500 remaining cadres, who know very well that the private farm sector or that linked with farm activities hires very few cadres?

Moreover, the draft operational budget for the MARA only calls for the following, as new jobs to be created in 1985, and that not until 1 July:

- 10 jobs for state engineers
- 45 jobs for technical assistants
- 25 jobs for technical representatives.

This shows that there will be a total problem for the 1984-85 graduates (also totaling about 1,000), who are currently still in school.

Expenditures on Equipment

Except for the Office of Agricultural Education and Research, with an increase of 36 percent in the allocation over that for 1984, which is linked with the increase for scholarship students, and the office of water projects and forests, which has an increase in its allocation, the offices of the MARA are receiving exactly the same allocations as in 1984.

Now in view of the existing rate of inflation and the general increase in the cost of various factors, these offices will therefore be operating in reality with more limited resources than last year, which may perhaps even put the implementation of the equipment budgets in danger.

Operational Subsidies

That of the INRA has been increased from 5.8 million dirhams to 46.5 million, because of the change in the status of that body, which has been given financial autonomy.

The ORMVA subsidy has been increased by 4 percent, from 186 million dirham to 193.8 million.

The subsidy of the Labor Centers (CT) has increased from 121.5 million dirhams to 124.8, or only 2.7 percent, which again shows the clear advantage given to the irrigated zones, to the detriment of the fallow zones.

These are the criticisms one might make of the MARA budget.

If our proposals were accepted, they would give the budget a new orientation consistent with the expectations of the vast peasant masses and the profound needs of the country.

SUDAN

ALLEGED TORTURE OF BA'ATH PARTY MEMBERS DECRIED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 356, 7 Jan 85 pp 17, 18

Article: "Torture in the Sudan: The Amnesty International Organization Demands: Stop This Crime and Bring the Criminals to Trial" /

Text/ The vile crimes the Sudanese security apparatus has committed in torturing a number of citizens accused of belong to the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party (Sudanese region), which can be summarized by the revelations provided in the trial of the fighting men Bashir Hammad Ibrahim, al-Jayli 'Abd-al-Karim Ibrahim, Hatim 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Abd-al-Hadi and 'Uthman al-Zayn al-Shaykh, who were subjected to brutal torture which assumed the form of putting hands in chains, violent beating, deprivation of sleep, the stretching of hands and feet by sliding doors, and beatings with wires on the hands and feet, which led to contusions and bleeding, as well as the performance of torture by the agency officers 'Asim al-Kabbashi, Hasan Daf'allah, Mahjub al-Jak and others on 40 citizens accused of the same charge, among them Nabil Nashid 'Abdallah Mikha'il a geology graduate, Ahmad Jum'ah Hammad, a geological technician and member of the central committee of the federation of government employees and professionals, and Taj al-Sirr Bashir Sirr-al-Khatm, a union member and employee of the Council of Ministers, in which the agency officers used the same methods as above, as well as applying electricity to sensitive parts of the body, threatening the prisoners with sexual aggression against them and their families, and putting pressure on testicles:

These crimes have provoked the condemnation and disapproval of many organizations, parties, bodies and figures who have replied to the appeal. Mr Shawqi Malasi, the lawyer and secretary general of Amnesty Sudan, and Dr Safiyah Safwat, have sent out. In his answering cable, the secretary general of the United Nations, Mr De Cuellar, directed that the matter be submitted to the deputy secretary general in the Center of Human Rights in Geneva. The British Liberal Party has also declared its support of the cause of the citizens brought to trial and cabled the government of the Sudan with a request that an investigation be made of the people accused of torture and that the accused be released. It also stressed that it was on the side of citizens who were subjected to torture and would cable the Sudanese government of that. In another area, the secretary general of the Federation of Arab Lawyers, Mr Faruq Abu 'Isa, in a telephone conversation with Mr Shawqi Malasi, condemned this vile crime, and the federation will take all necessary steps to declare its condemnation and stress the demand that the criminals be brought to trial and all prisoners be released.

Dr Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Arab Human Rights, was also informed, and he declared his condemnation of the vile crime. The matter will be presented to the committee so that it may take the appropriate measures.

The Amnesty International organization has cabled the Sudanese authorities to demand that the torture be stopped at once, that all prisoners be released, that an investigation be made into the accused officers and that they be brought to immediate trial.

In another area, the Amnesty International organization has sent an urgent appeal to all its branches in all areas of the world to send cables of condemnation, protest and solidarity. It has also taken other decisions which it will announce later. In another area, Mr Shawqi Malasi sent a telex to the ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan in London in which he demanded that the torture be stopped, that the accused officers be brought to trial and that al-Numayri and 'Umar al-Tayyib be held personally responsible. He has not yet received a response to this communication. He also sent letters to Mr Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister of Tunisia, the secretary general of the Arab League and the secretary general of the Islamic conference demanding personal intervention by them with President Numayri to stop the torture and bring the criminals who had carried out the torture to immediate trial.

The citizens whose names appear below were arrested in the months of October and November 1984 on the charge of belonging to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (Sudanese region) and tortured in the State Security Agency buildings in Khartoum. They are:

1. Al-Dardiri Adam al-Zubayr, farmer, self-employed.
2. Ma'mun al-Samani.
3. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Salem, agricultural research, Shambat.
4. Baha', a student in Cairo University, Khartoum branch.
5. Mu'awiyah, a student.
6. Al-Rida, a driver at Khartoum hospital.
7. Muhammad 'Abdallah, a student.
8. Idris Ahmad Hamid, a graduate.
9. Mahjub Hamid.
10. Muhammad Ahmad Hamidah, a graduate of Cairo University, Khartoum branch, law.
11. Fathi Muhammad al-Hasan, student at Cairo University, Khartoum branch.

12. 'Abd-al-Mahmud Hakim 'Ali.
13. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Salam, graduate in veterinary medicine.
14. Bashir Qasimallah Bashir, a student and construction worker.
15. 'Abdallah al-Ballah al-Siddiq
16. Hasab-al-Rasul Muhammad Khayr, vegetable vendor.
17. Khawali 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad, a former union member (construction worker and machinist).
18. Ab-Bakr Muhammad Abkar.
19. Samir Siddiq Muhammad, clearance worker.
20. Al-Sirr 'Awad Abu 'Aqilah, a pharmacist.
21. Jum'ah Muhammad Jafnah.
22. Fadlallah Muhammad Tahir, a male nurse in Khartoum hospital.
23. Hamdan Musa, a technician in the Coca Cola plant.
24. Salah Ibrahim.
25. Al-Shaykh Adam, laborer in the textile plant.
26. 'Umar al-Ghul, a higher secondary teacher.
27. 'Abd-al-Rahim Khujal.
28. Muhammad 'Isa, self-employed.
29. Salah 'Abd-al-Wahhab, engineer.
30. Ahmad Jum'ah Hammad, geological technician and member of the central committee of the federation of government employees and professionals.
31. Taj-al-Sirr Bashir Sirr-al-Khatm, union member and employee of the Council of Ministers.
32. Nabil Nashid 'Abdallah, graduate of the Faculty of Geological Sciences, employed in a shop.

L1887
CSO: 4504/189

BAHRAIN

AMIR SPEAKS ON GULF SITUATION, EGYPT, JORDAN

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Jan 85 pp 22-23

[Interview with Shaykh 'Isa Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, by Mahmud al-Sa'dani, in al-Rifa', date not specified]

[Text] Shaykh 'Isa Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, is the oldest ruler in the Gulf region. He is an Arab man who places the interests of Arabism in the forefront, and he feels that Arab differences have ruined Arab interests. Therefore, he is anxious to have good relations with everyone regardless of ideological and political differences. During my latest trip to the Gulf, I was anxious to meet with his highness, the amir of Bahrain, because the times we are going through are difficult and it has become impossible to understand them; time is passing, and the things we achieve fall short of our ambitions by far. In fact, the results are sometimes contrary to or different from what we wanted, while our enemies are uniting against us and mobilizing to oppose us, and their single purpose is to strike at all Arabs, regardless of whether they are Arabs of the right or of the left, whether they have oil or water! In his office in al-Rifa', I met with Shaykh 'Isa Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and the meeting was attended by Tariq al-Mu'ayyid, minister of information, and Ahmad al-'Abbasi, director of the Arab press and the ministry of information.

I was struck by the fact that the amir's office had not changed in the 17 years since I first met there with the amir of Bahrain. That was in 1967. True, change had befallen the area surrounding the amir's office: Gardens had sprung up, and greenery had spread in all directions. But inside the office, everything had stayed the same. Most importantly, the amir himself had not changed; the same modesty, simplicity and ever-present smile. The amir received me at the door to the hall, which was an honor to me and I am grateful to him. I reminded him of our first meeting and he said, "Yes, long years have passed in which everything has changed." He asked me about changes I had noticed in Bahrain, so I said, "Bahrain has changed completely and a new Bahrain has taken its place. But the sole thing that has not changed is the people of Bahrain; they are still the same, Arabs fighting for Arabism, generous in nature, kind, and not carried away by the wealth that descended on the region during the seventies." His highness the amir said as his smile grew, "Thank God, we are true to our principles. We are only a small island and a small people, and we have no refuge other than our Arabness, which we are proud of and for which we sacrifice what is dear and what is cheap."

[Question] It was for that that you announced your support of the step which King Husayn took to restore relations with Egypt.

[Answer] Arab relations with Egypt were never severed. Even while diplomatically absent, Egypt was present, and King Husayn's step was courageous and fortunate and should be followed by other, similar steps, and I believe that such steps are in the making because Egypt has a role to play in the Arab world which it must perform. We here in Bahrain do not forget the good Egypt has done. It was Egypt which taught our generations. Egyptian teachers would come to us at the beginning of this century, enduring every hardship for the sake of educating us. Doctors would come from Egypt to treat us, and we would go to Egypt for education and treatment. Even Bahraini artists and literary men, when they wanted to make contact with the Arab world, would go nowhere else but Cairo, because Cairo is the heart of the Arab world and Egypt is its head. We in Bahrain do not deny this special position of Egypt, and I personally love the Egyptians and they have a special place in my heart.

[Question] Your Highness, do you intend to visit Egypt soon?

[Answer] I would like to visit Egypt soon, and I will do that, God willing, when the time is right. For my part, I am impressed with President Husni Mubarak, and I believe that he is blessed and that his era is a blessing to the Arabs, and much will be accomplished at his hand, God willing. I would like to make clear to you that the president's policy is good, and he is anxious to establish good relations with everyone, and his Arab inclinations for our part are welcomed and met with every respect. His position towards Israel is that of a responsible man who knows what is good for his country and for the Arab nation. He once explained that he is with the Gulf nations and anxious for their security, and that Egypt would jump to defend the nations of the region if threatened with danger. It is a great position and we thank him for it, and it is a resumption by Egypt of its natural role in the vanguard of the Arab nation. There is also Egypt's position with respect to the Gulf war which we must mention, for Egypt backs Iraq with all the capabilities it has, and Egypt's role in this war has had an effect on the results achieved. It is a big and effective role, and it proves that Egypt is carrying out its Arab duty, even if it is "diplomatically" distant from the Arabs.

[Question] Your Highness, with respect to the Gulf war, what is Bahrain's position towards this war, and when will we see an end to it?

[Answer] Our position towards the Gulf war is that of every Arab towards this war, and that is that we are on the Arab side in the war, even though we want this war to end as soon as possible, because if it continues, Arab and Muslim forces will be destroyed. The priority for this Islamic and Arab force is to turn and face the enemies of the Arabs and Islam, but this accursed war has eaten up the best of the Arabs and Muslims and destroyed their strength.

That is something that is good for the enemies of the Arabs and the enemies of Islam. The truth is that our brothers in Iraq have gone to impossible lengths to stop this war and put an end to it. Our brothers in Iraq announced their acceptance of Islamic mediation, Arab mediation, and United Nations mediation, and they confirmed their readiness for an immediate cease-fire and for

entry into negotiations with the other side. We here in the Gulf have more than once expressed our readiness to compensate the injured party, on condition that the war is ended and that the legitimate interests of all sides are protected. In general, I ask God to grant everyone success in what is best for the Arabs and the Muslims, and I ask God that this war end and that we all live on the shores of the Gulf in peace and quiet, and that every nation respect the interests of the other nations, and that every nation refrain from interfering in the affairs of others.

[Question] Your Highness, what is your opinion on what was achieved by the meetings of the Palestine National Council which convened recently in Jordan?

[Answer] The affairs of our Palestinian brothers are their own business. We are for the Palestine Liberation Organization and consider it to be the first and sole representative of the Palestinian people. Our role is one of support, therefore we are for the Palestine Liberation Organization and bless its struggle to realize the interests of the Palestinian people and of the Palestinian cause.

[Question] Your Highness, what is your opinion on Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination?

[Answer] All Arab coordination that serves Arab causes we bless and agree to, and we hope that this coordination will succeed in serving the causes of the Arab nation, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause. We hope that the sphere of coordination will expand to include all concerned parties to the question. I ask God Almighty that the war of slogans and broadcasts end and that we all agree on a unified goal, because agreement on one goal will bring us victory. We here in Bahrain support any peace effort in our Arab region. With respect to the Palestinian question, any solution that the Liberation Organization agrees to, we will agree to without hesitation.

[Question] Your Highness, do you believe the Arab summit conference would be successful if it met now under these precise circumstances?

[Answer] We would welcome the Arab summit at any time, on condition that its convening would be in the interest of the nation, and on condition that it does not get into a war of slogans that would create further alienation and division.

[Question] Your Highness, you recently attended the summit of the Cooperation Council states that met in Kuwait. What is your evaluation of this latest session, and did the Gulf Cooperation Council fulfill its required role?

[Answer] The Gulf summit which was held recently in Kuwait was successful, and it achieved positive and effective results. These results will be evident soon, God willing. I should mention that the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council has done a lot of good for them, and has increased coordination and cohesiveness in many fields.

[Question] Your Highness, one last question, about the Egyptians who work in Bahrain: Are they affected by Egypt's diplomatic absence?

[Answer] You have Egyptians here in Bahrain, and you can ask them about their circumstances. But if you want to know the truth about our feelings towards the Egyptians working here, relax. The Egyptians working in Bahrain and in the Gulf generally are extremely competent and carry out their duties most perfectly. We feel brotherhood and love towards them, and surround them with care and concern. Let me tell you a strange secret. Following Egypt's diplomatic absence, the number of Egyptians working in Bahrain itself and in the Gulf region generally increased. And I want to whisper another secret in your ear. The jokes going around here are Egyptian, and the Bahraini disposition is closer to the Egyptian one. Even the soccer matches in Egypt have their echoes here in Bahrain.

His Highness's smile broadened; he scanned the air of the spacious hall and said, "You yourself wrote once about your first visit that you would like to die in Bahrain. Why didn't you mention that you would like to live in Bahrain?" I said to his Highness, "In order to ensure that I remain in Bahrain until the day of resurrection." His Highness laughed and said in a soft voice, "No one can beat the Egyptians." Then he called for aloe-wood for us, and the censer-bearers entered, diffusing throughout the air in the place the perfume of Singapore aloe-wood impregnated with the scent of roses. That was the signal that the meeting was over, because in Bahrain, the Gulf, and the nation of Muhammad, there is no sitting after the aloe-wood. We said good-bye to the man until we reached the door, and he bid us farewell with his pleasant, beaming smile. We stood outside the office, Tariq al-Mu'ayyid the minister of information and I. I looked at the surrounding area; the weather was spring-like even though it was winter, and the greenery in al-Rifa' spread as far as the eye could see, date trees and ornamental trees and fountains flowing with water in every direction. I said to Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid, "It is strange. Everything outside the office changes. There used to be desert here and it has turned into gardens. There used to be rocks here and they have been replaced with fountains and water spouts. But the change has not included people. They have stayed the same, especially Shaykh 'Isa: the same simplicity, the same humility, the same modesty." Tariq al-Mu'ayyid said as we were getting ready to get into the car, "We in Bahrain progress but we do not change!"

I testify that what the minister said is true.

12547
CSO: 4404/202

BAHRAIN

NEW IRON WORKS AIMS AT ARAB MARKET

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 19 Jan 85 p 49

[Text] Last month the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman, inaugurated a new factory for iron pellets belonging to the Arab Iron and Steel Company. Various Gulf nations, in addition to Iraq, hold shares in the company's capital of \$150 million.

The plant is considered to be large, and it cost about \$300 million to build. It was built on an area of (dual use) sea land of about one square kilometer. Its maximum output is 4 million tons of iron pellets.

The plant's task is to convert iron ore into little iron pellets used in iron and steel industries. The general director of the factory, Dr 'Umar Qurayn, expressed the hope that Arab iron and steel factories would comprise the principle market for the factory's output.

Dr Qurayn, who is Algerian and considered one of the brightest experts of the Arab iron and steel industry, called upon Arab governments to protect their industries, as the industrial nations did when their industries were likewise first getting started, and as they also do now.

He said that without protection, there are doubts that the Arab iron and steel industry could develop and expand, especially since world factories are dumping their products onto Arab markets at prices below costs in some instances. At the same time he indicated there was a growing need in the Arab world for iron and steel, and that Arab production covered a relatively small portion of Arab demand.

Regarding Arab demand for iron pellets, Dr Qurayn said that statistics indicate that the needs of Arab iron and steel factories for pellets are close to 10 million tons, and it is assumed that Arab plants will absorb all of the Bahrain factory's output.

He also mentioned that the Bahrain factory is considered to be technologically advanced and able to produce various types of iron pellets, including the types needed by the steel factories which use the method of direct reduction current in the Arab nations, in contrast to most factories which specialize in the production of one type of pellet.

The factory of the Arab Iron and Steel Company mainly uses Indian iron ore, since technological developments in transportation methods and the factory itself make it economically beneficial to import raw materials from far away and to export them when processed to distant markets.

12547
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BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

CONTROL OF MONEY CHANGERS--The Bahrain monetary organization decided to extend its control over financial markets to include about 50 money changers operating in Bahrain. According to the new arrangement which goes into effect next February, the money changers will have to take out a license from the Bahrain monetary organization to deal in money for 6 months, in addition to a special license from the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture. The organization will determine the capital needed for the operations of buying and selling currencies and travelers' checks in each case, but it has set the minimum capital for those dealing in foreign conversions and precious metal trading at 100,000 Bahraini dinars, along with securities for an additional 50,000 dinars. The money changers will not be allowed to grant loans or accept deposits, and the money changers will have to submit their balance of accounts during the last 3 months of every fiscal year. In addition, the Bahrain monetary organization supervises the activity of companies trading in precious metals, the commodities trade, and local and free (offshore) banks. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 19-25 Jan 85 p 33] 12547

CSO: 4404/202

ISRAEL

SHILOAH INSTITUTE STUDIES SEE KHOMEYNIISM AS BENEFITING ISRAEL

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Dec 84 pp 15-16

[Article: "The Danger of Khomeynism to Israel is Much Less Than That of Pan-Arabism"]

[Text] It is not by accident that the name Shiloah (referring to Reuven Shiloah, an Israeli intelligence service chief in the 1950's) was given to the Middle Eastern and African Studies Institute of Tel Aviv University, for since its inception this institute has constituted for the Israeli intelligence service and foreign ministry an important intelligence resource on the political, social, and economic situations in the countries of the Middle East and the African continent.

The part played by the Shiloah Institute developed interestingly enough in three principal stages. The first was when thousands of African students flocked to Israeli universities during the golden age of Israeli-African relations before the October 1973 war. The studies done by the institute were used to shape the outlook of these students along Western lines, particularly since they would be occupying important posts when they returned to their countries.

The second stage began following the visit of former Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat to Jerusalem. At that time there were issued dozens of studies based on the special cultural courses given at Tel Aviv University during the period of cultural normalization under the direction of representatives of Egypt and Israel. These studies attempted to draw attention to three principal issues: the continuation of the joint history of the Egyptian and the Jewish people, the nature and scope of the Jewish and Egyptian identity and personality, and the attitude of Egypt and Israel toward the civilization and the world of the West. At the same time Prof Shim'on Shamir, one of the institute's specialists on Egyptian affairs, put out a number of other studies on the domestic situation in Egypt. For example, in 1980 he published books on higher education in Egypt, labor unions, the Egyptian economy in the face of the Arab boycott, the development of the educational system in Egypt in the 1970's, and the background of the economic open-door in Egypt, in addition to a book entitled "The End of Nasirism, or the Decline of an Unsystematized Movement." Naturally, these studies were done for

dissemination among the Western research centers that have ties with the Shiloah Institute and for attribution to Egyptian sources that participated in the special conferences held by the institute.

In the same field the institute published a study done by Prof Yisra'el Gershoni of Tel Aviv University following al-Sadat's visit. This study was entitled "The Rise of Arabism in Egypt," and in it Gershoni tried to show how and when pan-Arabism made its first appearance in Egypt as an ideological force among the political and cultural elite. His analyses led him to the conclusion that the years between 1936 and 1940 were the formative period during which the concept of pan-Arabism crystallized as an effective factor among this elite, but that it waned during the 1970's under al-Sadat's regime.

During this period the institute's studies became increasingly concentrated on the Palestine problem. In these studies the persistence of the problem was linked with internal Arab conflicts, on the one hand, and to disputes over the leadership of the Palestinians that go back to an earlier period. This period is dealt with in a book called "The Events of 1936--Revolt or Imbroglio?", which of course describes that year's strikes by the Palestinians against the British mandate authorities because they permitted increased Jewish immigration. This concentration extends to the history of the Soviet role in the region and even to the period of good relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. This is a subject dealt with in a book called "The Soviet Union and Israel, 1947-1954" by Prof Ya'akov Ravi, and one entitled "Arab Policy in the Soviet Mirror" by the journalist Ariyeh Yodfat, which revolves around the ups and downs of Arab-Soviet relations.

The third stage is connected with the rise of Khomeyni in Iran. This is a phenomenon in which the institute's researchers have tried to focus on the Khomeyni factor in the region by portraying the Iraqi-Iranian war in the terms delineated by Iran.

Last year Tel Aviv University held a seminar on the subject of "Religion and Authority in Islam", which was published by the writers Yo'el (Kreyer) and Eli Alon. It addressed itself to the relationship between religion and politics as revealed in the various periods of Islamic history. It concentrated, however, on the Khomeyni experiment in Iran and pointed up clearly the benefits to be reaped from it by the West and Israel. The book is used as a text in the College of Humanities of Tel Aviv University. It thus is certain that the studies carried out in this college contain the results of the seminar held this year also dealing with the same matters and that this was done under the supervision of officials of the institute that recently was denominated "The Dayan Institute for Middle Eastern and African Studies--Shiloah Center."

The following indication may best epitomize the seminar in question:

"Despite the fact that the Islamic revolution in Iran led to heightened tension and turmoil in the region, it nevertheless has become one of the most influential developments confronting pan-Arabism in this century."

This proposition was put forward at the end of the seminar organized by the Shiloah Center of Tel Aviv University on "The Islamic Revolution in Iran and the Islamic Movement in the Region."

The participants in this seminar were a group of Jewish researchers and students who had come to Israel from the United States, the Soviet Union and West Germany. In their conference that was held last September the participants discussed fourteen papers that were presented on "The Khomeyni Movement, the Islamic Revolution, and the Effect of the Islamic Revolution on the Soviet Union." The researchers agreed on four points that were considered at the end of the conference. These points were:

1. Khomeynism in Iran is attempting to meet the challenge posed by the danger of pan-Arabism. In the event that Khomeynism wins out in the region it would be much less dangerous for Israel than the danger of pan-Arabism. Israel can use Khomeynism against the Arab states, while at the same time the United States can mobilize it against communism and the Soviet Union.
2. The Iranian government has posed for the region the problem of the oneness of religion and government. This is what Israel wants, for it was the only state based on a religious ideology. Following the Khomeyni revolution in Iran no one will be able to accuse Israel of being the only regime based on a religious community.
3. Khomeynism is against both territorial and ethnic nationalism. Therefore Khomeynism should be used against pan-Arabism, but at the same time its Islamic aspect can be used in the southern republics of the Soviet Union.
4. Khomeynism and its revolution are against change and want to return society to the Middle Ages. At the same time this revolution is trying to revive agriculture and it is not concerned with industry. We in Israel will benefit greatly from this policy. This is true mainly because if the Islamic societies come to be dominated by Khomeynism they will not be able to put an end to their present backwardness and Khomeynism will encourage them to turn backward. This will enable Israel to become the one developed country among a collection of backward ones that sooner or later will have need of us.

Since Khomeyniism belongs to the reactionary and feudal stage it will strive to strike down all progressive parties and movements, including Marxism and socialism.

Khomeyniism has indeed opened a new front against the Arabs, and we can see a more tranquil future for Israel.

12541
CSO: 4404/177

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT IN JAMAICA--Israeli agricultural investment has reached the island of Jamaica in the Caribbean where Lebanese "shrewdness" preceded the Israelis, leading a politician of Lebanese extraction to the position of prime minister, namely E. P. Seaga. The result has been a joint investment between Prime Minister Seaga's administration and Israeli businessman Eli Tizona in a fruit and vegetable project set up on the warm island for the purpose of exporting to Britain. It is well known that most of Britain's winter vegetable consumption is imported from Israel. But Israeli exports have been interrupted at times because of the frosts and cold spells hitting Israeli farms. This is why an Israeli businessman has found it beneficial to transfer Israeli agricultural technology to Jamaica's fertile farms, which enjoy stable, warm weather, and, consequently, to insure the uninterrupted flow of Israeli fruit and vegetable exports, originating in Jamaica, to Britain throughout the year. The new agricultural investment company has been founded on the basis of having Israeli businessman Tizona own 60 percent of the company's shares, with Seaga's administration owning the remaining 40 percent. The company hopes to utilize Jamaica's convenient weather conditions to produce the fruit and vegetable varieties which Israel exports to the British markets and also to benefit from the low production cost and inexpensive labor on the island. Moreover, the company benefits from Jamaica's special arrangements with the EEC which exempt Jamaica's exports to Britain from all fees. In the experimental production phase in 1984, the company exported \$600,000's worth of its fruit and vegetable production whereas Jamaica's total agricultural exports did not exceed \$2 million in 1984. The company officials assert that when the company enters the phase of commercial production, which is expected to begin next year, the island will double its revenues from its agricultural exports which include tomatoes, squash, watermelons, bananas and mangoes. /Text/ /London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1473, 25 Jan 85 p 43/ 8494

ROAD PROJECT PROTEST--Palestinian lawyers from the occupied West Bank are seeking to obstruct a new Israeli plan to build new roads with the aim of expropriating 46,000 donums of Palestinian lands and of facilitating the linking of the West Bank with the Zionist entity. The lawyers will file a lawsuit with the Court of International Justice at the Hague to obtain a legal opinion prior to referring the case to the General Assembly /not further identified/. The costs of the new Israeli project amount to \$400 million. This project will destroy the cultivable lands in Ghawr al-Fari'ah in the West Bank and will prevent the extension of irrigation networks to areas whose length is 600 km. /Text/ /London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 85 p 5/ 8494

CAIRO TOURIST OFFICE CLOSING--The Israeli Ministry of Tourism is expected to announce the closing of its office in Cairo after having failed to appoint a new director for it following the resignation of its previous director, Maurice Casuto. It is anticipated that the economic attaché in the Israeli Embassy in Cairo will be put in charge of its activities. This situation has come about as a result of the lack of tourists going from Egypt to "Israel." [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Dec 84 p 3] 12541

CSO: 4404/177

JORDAN

EFFORTS TO REDUCE RATE OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION, COSTS DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 412, 12 Jan 85 pp 45-46

Article: "Jordan Begins Phase of Curtailment of Energy Consumption; Jordan Pays 90 Percent of Its Export Revenues for Imported Oil"

Text Last week, Jordan entered the energy age when it decided to reduce the big growth in oil and electricity consumption at a time when this consumption has almost created a permanent crisis in the balance of payments--a crisis which certainly affects the spending and the future of the Jordanian economy and this economy's production cost structure. The fact is that the Jordanian energy policy follows two main lines:

First, it is to curb the consumption growth rate from 14 percent a year to a reasonable figure not exceeding 5 percent and to prospect for oil on Jordanian territory. As long as Jordan is located geographically near a vast sea of oil in the Gulf states, its territories might contain enough oil to meet its growing energy needs. The oil prospecting efforts have led to the discovery of evidence indicating the presence of oil. But oil in commercial quantities has not been discovered yet.

However, Jordan contains vast deposits of shale rock which, if processed, can supply Jordan with at least 20 billion barrels, as indicated by the studies. But it is extremely costly to extract oil from these rocks and the cost may exceed the cost of importing oil. Furthermore, the utilization of such a vast resource requires an abundance of water which is not available in Jordan at present.

From now until this wealth can be utilized commercially, Jordan has put its energy affairs in order. It has reduced its subsidy for oil derivatives and raised fuel prices to reduce the burden on the balance of payments and to curtail the growth rate in the consumption of oil derivatives. These measures will lead to a savings of 26 million dinars.

Observers say that these measures also reflect the Jordanian officials' concern over a possible inability to pay the energy bill, which is estimated at \$600 million a year. This is a relatively high bill for a small nonindustrial country with a population of no more than 2.5 million people.

The oil bill alone consumes more than 90 percent of the revenues of Jordan's exports of phosphates and of manufactured and agricultural goods, meaning that this bill creates a big imbalance in the trade balance. All of Jordan's efforts to export its products are threatened by the oil bill at a time when these exports must also meet a large part of Jordan's commodity and raw material imports for industry. If Jordan succeeds in enabling its exports to meet the entire oil bill and a part of the cost of its other imports, it will have achieved good progress.

Hisham al-Khatib, the Jordanian minister of energy, said that oil consumption grew by 14 percent a year throughout the preceding decade, compared to an annual growth rate of eight or nine percent in the national product. The Jordanian minister implied that both percentages must be equal in order to achieve the desired balance.

Like any developing country, Jordan spends enormous sums on energy subsidies, amounting to \$555 million a year. Unless this figure is reduced, this country will suffer from heavy financial burdens.

Jordan's complete plan to achieve this objective of reducing the energy consumption growth rate and of reducing the size of the oil bill requires:

1. Reducing the subsidy for the oil derivatives, planning to eliminate this subsidy in the next few years and reducing the electricity subsidy which amounts to 4.5 million dinars a year.
2. Converting the Jordanian electricity plants, either totally or partially, to coal whose costs are 40 percent lower than oil costs, with this conversion to be completed by 1990 at the latest.
3. Spending 14.5 million Jordanian dinars on drilling new wells in an area where quantities of oil have been discovered.
4. Introducing the means to exploit solar energy on a broader scale.
5. Introducing a public transport system consisting of a more efficient network of buses and trains so as to reduce the Jordanians' need to use their cars, along with levying high fees on the registration of big new cars.

It is to be noted that this plan is extremely costly in comparison with Jordan's investment capabilities, especially the costs of covering the power plants, of discovering oil, of building a modern transport system and of utilizing shale rock.

Jordan's plans come within the framework of a comprehensive Arab tendency to abolish the subsidy for oil and its derivatives in all the Arab countries, including the Gulf states, Syria and Egypt. The continuation of this subsidy means a furthering of the enormous energy waste in the Arab world. Studies conducted by the Organization of Arab Oil Exporting Countries indicate that most of the waste occurs in consumption, not production, meaning that subsidized fuels offered to the Arab consumer on a silver platter should not be offered for luxurious and wasteful use.

The Gulf states have drawn up plans to increase fuel prices but they will not implement these plans now because of the difficult conditions and circumstances being experienced by the area. However, these countries will begin after a while to unify the prices of oil derivatives. This step is enough to raise energy prices in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar to the energy price levels in Bahrain.

OPEC says in this regard that the continued growth of the Arab world's consumption of oil derivatives at a rate of 15 percent a year is likely to lead to a reduction of Arab oil exports in the near future. An energy conference was held in Damascus 2 years ago and discussed this issue, coming up with the unanimous opinion on the need to prepare informationally for raising energy prices to the levels of their cost and to enlighten public opinion as to the dimensions and necessity of this step.

It seems that Jordan has succeeded so far in its efforts to raise energy prices to the cost level, with Syria preceding it toward this objective. As for Lebanon, the decline in the pound's exchange rate has led anew to a deficit in the Fuel Fund. It seems that the government will raise fuel prices again in 1985 to bring them up to the cost level. There remains Egypt, which has experienced abysmal failures in raising its fuel prices. This failure will saddle the country with enormous financial burdens that will cause a drop in Egypt's oil exports unless the country moves at the various levels to tackle this problem.

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CSO: 4404/204

JORDAN

BRIEFS

SOVIET WEAPONS DEAL--Amman--"From now until the 6th month of this year, Jordan will have completed its new and sophisticated air defense network for whose purchase it has concluded a contract with the Soviet Union." With these words, a Jordanian official has summed up the details of the weapons deal concluded by Jordan with the Soviet Union. This is the first deal of its kind with which an Arab country which has adopted a Western military system will arm itself. Quoting Gen Zayd ibn Shakir, the general commander of the Jordanian forces, the official JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY announced at the beginning of this week that "the Soviet equipment will begin arriving in Jordan at the outset of the current year." Addressing a new batch of graduates of the Jordanian Staff and Command College, General Shakir said that "Jordan is currently negotiating for the purchase of Soviet, French and British weapons despite the economic hardship it is experiencing." General Shakir made no mention of U.S. weapons concerning air defense systems because President Reagan's administration cancelled in March 1984 a deal for U.S. Stinger missiles scheduled to be supplied to Jordan "because of King Husayn's criticism of the U.S. Mideast policy." AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned from Jordanian military sources that the new air defense system deal with the Soviet Union does not include SAM-5 and SAM-6 networks but it does include a very sophisticated network of SAM-8's which the Soviet Union has not previously delivered to the Middle East, excluding, of course, the Syrian air defense network. Only a few Warsaw Pact countries possess a similar system.
/Text/ /Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 412, 12 Jan 85 p 10/ 8494

CSO: 4404/204

KUWAIT

ARAB NATIONALIST LEADER DISCUSSES DOMESTIC SCENE

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 23 Jan 85 pp 27-34

[Interview with Dr Ahmad al-Khatib, of the Arab Nationalist Movement, by AL-WATAN: "Parliamentary Action Is Not the Only Field For Nationalist Action;" conducted on 15 January 1985, place not specified]

[Text] On 15 January 1985, our colleague journal AL-WATAN interviewed Dr. Ahmad al-Khatib. It was a far-ranging interview which covered a great many political, social and economic issues on the local, Arab and international scene. In view of the profound importance of such an interview with a leading figure of nationalist activity in Kuwait, AL-TALI'AH is republishing it so that the greatest possible number of concerned readers can read it.

Some people accuse him of being a Communist, because of his concern and sympathy for the simple folk, while others like to portray him as an agent, heretic and unbeliever. Others look upon him and his group as an organized nationalist political movement.

Where does Dr Ahmad al-Khatib place himself in the scheme of things, now and in coming years?

When AL-WATAN asked him, "Who are you and what do you want?" it knew very well who he was, both within the National Assembly and outside it. But the paper wanted to bring him face to face with the people, so that he could speak out after his long silence, which has lasted quite some time for a man accustomed to activity.

He expressed his opinions on many issues freely and frankly. He spoke of his group's poor showing in the 1981 elections, which was due to many factors, including the decline in patriotism and nationalism, the widespread influence of religious parties, and their cooperation with the government.

He explained that the government has not withdrawn the proposed constitutional amendment, but is holding it back, awaiting more suitable circumstances in the 1985 assembly. He said that the proposed amendments would make the National Assembly nothing more than a consultative council, while expanding the government's powers.

He attributed the country's strangling economic crisis to the government's economic policy, which relies on one source of revenue, petroleum, and to the continuing policy of squandering public funds to the benefit and advantage of a certain group, at the expense of the society.

He added, "A few people own vast expanses of land, while tens of thousands of citizens wait years to get a house."

During the interview, Dr al-Khatib discussed "rationalizing expenses," saying that this must not be achieved by placing additional burdens on broader segments of the population, reducing essential social expenditures, as happened in the case of subsidies for some consumer goods, or by cutting back on services such as meals and uniforms for students.

The interview with Dr al-Khatib moved on to administrative reform, education, housing policy, Kuwait's demographic imbalance, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and the security agreements.

Dr al-Khatib also responded to several accusations directed at him, charging him with being more concerned with Arab issues than with local ones. He said that this concern of his arises from his devotion to Kuwait's independence and future, and from his belief that the issues which surround the Arab nation and the Gulf also bear on Kuwait's future.

Dr al-Khatib denied supporting Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He said that some extremists have even gone so far as to say that liberating Afghanistan has now become more important than liberating Jerusalem.

Dr al-Khatib is not speaking out after such a long silence merely to propose an election platform for this phase, but rather to touch on what the future holds and to outline his stands on several urgent, important issues on which he must take a position. [Here is the text of the interview.]

Dr Ahmad al-Khatib is a prominent national, progressive personage whose role was and still is clear. He has participated tangibly in national, democratic action in Kuwait, be it through social bodies such as the National Cultural Club and then the Independence Club, or through elected parliamentary authorities. He was deputy chairman of the Constitutional Assembly of 1962, which drafted Kuwait's constitution, and was a deputy in the first National Assembly from 1963 to 1965, the third National Assembly from 1971 to 1974, and the fourth National Assembly from 1975 to its dissolution in August 1967. He has been a leading figure in the national opposition within the above-mentioned assemblies, in addition to his participation in AL-TALI'AH, which voices the nationalist tendencies he represents, and before than AL-IMAN and SADA AL-IMAN, which were published in the fifties.

Dr al-Khatib has won Arab and international renown because of his prominent role in the Arab Nationalist Movement [ANM] during the fifties and sixties, his membership in the general secretariat of the Arab front in support of the Palestinian revolution in the seventies, his firm ties with Palestinian revolutionary forces and other Arab national liberation forces, and his participation in the establishment of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.

Dr al-Khatib and his colleagues have a comprehensive theory and an integral program through which they express their stands on various general issues. They are also remarkably influential among popular circles. For more than 30 years they have been one of Kuwait's most important nationalist trends.

Our meeting with Dr Ahmad al-Khatib took place on the eve of the upcoming parliamentary elections, which Dr al-Khatib and his colleagues are entering under the list and platform of the "Democratic Grouping" candidates.

[Question] After more than three decades of involvement in national action, the question pops up: Who are you, and what do you represent? Some people look upon you as a group of persons and elements centered around a national personage, yourself, and a magazine, AL-TALI'AH. Some consider you a trend within the national opposition, and some see you as an organized political movement. Some consider you leftist and Communist, while others see you as merely nationalists. How do you define yourselves?

[Answer] Regardless of the labels, we are part of the national, democratic trend in Kuwait, the roots of which go back to the thirties. We do not represent or propose anything artificial or new; we are a historic continuation of this national, democratic Kuwaiti trend. True, our pre-independence concerns and demands differed from those after independence. Also, what we proposed when monopolistic, colonialist companies controlled the petroleum was quite different from what we called for once these companies were taken over. But we must look at this shift in concerns and demands, as well as in the form of national action, from the standpoint of continuing and carrying on according to changing historic circumstances.

As for leftist and Communist, such labels are used either by people who look upon our concern for the simple folk with limited incomes, and our stand vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, as bases for classifying us as such, or else by our opponents, to accuse us of being agents, heretics and infidels, in order to slander and defame us.

I don't want to discuss these other people, or their accusations, slanders and defamation, but I do want to explain our stand with regard to our concern for the simple folk, and our stand on the Soviet Union.

Junior-grade employees and limited-income workers constitute a major part of the Kuwait population, and they have a real stake in Kuwait's development and progress in accordance with democracy and social justice. Adopting the demands of all these Kuwaitis and pressing for their rights and well-being is our duty, our responsibility, and the starting point for our work.

Our stand on the Soviet Union, which is slandered or misunderstood by some, derives from the fact that we make a distinction between friends and enemies; between those who stand alongside us as Arabs in our battle against Zionism and those who support the Zionist aggression against us. We cannot place the Soviet Union and the United States of America on the same level. We distinguish between friend and enemy, and we are friendly with our friends and hostile to our enemies.

But some people do not admire this stand, and try to slander and defame us because of it. Their intentions are obvious.

In short, we are part of the Kuwaiti national democratic trend in its progressive, nationalist, Arab sense.

[Question] During the 1971 elections, you proposed your first program for national action, and you presented programs again in the 1975 and 1981 elections. Are these programs merely campaign promises made at election time?

[Answer] In our programs we present general popular demands for strengthening democracy, meeting vital popular demands, instituting an alternative national economic policy to combat corruption and the exploitation of influence, and dealing with social problems. In these programs we present our viewpoints on va

When we present our programs, we do so in order to invite all those good Kuwaitis who desire democracy, independence, development, and the attainment of social justice to work with us to achieve whatever concerns, goals, and demands we can.

At the same time, we don't enter elections for our own benefit, but to submit a clear program to the people--a program not consisting merely of glittering election-time promises, but comprising demands and realistic solutions for our problems.

[Question] This is the seventh general parliamentary election you have entered since the 1962 Constitutional Assembly elections. What in particular do you want from the elections--the formation of a parliamentary majority under definite constitutional conditions? overall reform? popular mobilization around national, democratic demands and concerns? Or is this the only field for general action open to you? If so, do you believe in sticking to "parliamentary action" exclusively?

[Answer] According to the constitution and current political circumstances, the parliament has a limited role, but it still remains an important pulpit for alerting the people and bringing up general demands. Our role in the parliament is based on these two considerations.

We believe that there is a significant potential for the National Assembly to play a legislative and supervisory role to benefit the people, Kuwait's development, and the reform of existing circumstances. But parliamentary action cannot be considered the only field for national action. True, it is one of the more important ones, but it does not replace other fields of national action.

The popular action outside the National Assembly against the proposed constitutional amendment proves that what we are saying is true, and is an example known to us all.

[Question] You accepted the 1981 election results in a democratic spirit. In your opinion, what were the reasons for what happened at that time?

[Answer] On principle, we accept the results of general parliamentary elections as long as they are honest, whether we win or not. We have already mentioned the reasons for what happened during the 1981 elections, but we can summarize them as follows: the circumstances in the Arab world as a result of the imperialist onslaught; the decline in Arab patriotism and nationalism; the widespread influence of religious parties and their alliance with the authorities, as well as with those who benefit from this movement; sectarian polarization; and the breaking up of electoral districts and their redivision from 10 into 25 districts.

There is no doubt that the major effect of the prosperity brought about by the Suq al-Manakh [an unofficial stock market] in 1981 was the withholding of many votes from nationalist candidates. The voters believed that should those candidates reach the National Assembly, they might interfere with the conditions prevailing in the Suq al-Manakh at that time.

There is another perhaps not potent but nevertheless contributing factor: the playing around with the lists of voters, like what occurred in the al-Rawdah district. The lists were not completely clean, as indicated by the fact that the courts removed about 140 illegally-registered persons from the al-Rawdah lists.

[Question] You referred to sectarian polarization. We wonder whether the sectarian agitation kindled by certain forces has led people to think that you are waging a one-sided battle against sectarianism. What is your comment?

[Answer] We are against the division of Kuwaitis along sectarian and tribal lines. Kuwait's stability, security, and development, and the preservation and strengthening of democracy in Kuwait, demands that the Kuwaiti people not be torn apart along sectarian and tribal lines. We are against any party or body which stirs up sectarian chauvinism among Kuwaitis.

[Question] Let's move on to the constitution. As everyone knows, there is widespread popular opposition to the introduction of non-democratic amendments to the Kuwaiti constitution, and this opposition has thwarted the proposal to amend the constitution. You have played a major part there, both in public meetings and in the memorandum you and Jasim al-Qitami submitted to the National Assembly. Have plans to amend the constitution been definitely withdrawn, or is there a possibility that they will be brought up again?

[Answer] When we objected to the government's proposed amendments to the constitution, ostensibly aimed at streamlining it, we did so because they would impinge on the Kuwaiti people's most important democratic gain--the constitution and the basic guarantees it provides. The amendments would impinge on the National Assembly's right to exercise its powers of legislation and control over government actions. Should the amendments be passed, the elected National Assembly would be transformed into little more than a consultative assembly with no power or force, and the jurisdictions and powers of the government and its executive agencies would be expanded. This widespread popular opposition played a large part in preventing the passage of these dangerous amendments, as did the persistence of several members of the National Assembly who went along with the popular position.

True, the government withdrew its proposal to amend the constitution, but we all remember what the minister of justice and legal and administrative affairs said in his television interview on the evening of 16 May 1983, to the effect that the government withdrew its amendment proposal in order to wait for more propitious circumstances. In other words, the government did not withdraw it totally, but is waiting for more favorable circumstances--for a National Assembly which will accept it. This is why we say that the battle to preserve the constitution is continuing, and it is our duty to stay alert to all eventualities.

[Question] Since this is the situation, what do you think is the fundamental concern for the next phase? Is it to preserve constitutional guarantees or to work to strengthen and expand them?

[Answer] Protecting and preserving the constitution and strengthening and expanding democracy are interrelated and indivisible. Naturally, democracy cannot be strengthened or rights and freedoms expanded unless the constitution is at least preserved.

[Question] Moving on to current affairs, Kuwait's economic crisis--the deficit in budget revenues and the Suq al-Manakh crisis--come first. What do you think caused this crisis?

[Answer] The underlying cause is the government's economic policy. It relies on a single source of income--revenues from the sale of crude oil--without making a serious effort to create alternative fields of production or to diversify and expand the economic infrastructure. The government has not formulated clear economic programs or plans. There is no economic policy based on achieving the well-being of the broadest popular spectrum. The government continues to fritter away public funds to the benefit and advantage of a certain group.

All of these factors contributed to what happened, and in fact lead us to anticipate something even more serious. For this reason, we are calling for the adoption of an alternative national economic policy oriented towards expanding the national economy's productive base, diversifying sources of revenue, and especially creating an industrial infrastructure in petroleum-related fields such as fuels and raw materials for various uses.

We are calling for a stop to the diversion of public funds to benefit a certain social group and using up our resources, which can only deepen class differences.

We are constantly demanding an economic plan aimed at developing the national economy, a re-examination of foreign investment policy, and an appraisal of the political risks and dangers of economic subservience which accompany such investment.

Adopting an alternative national economic policy will enable us to find a way to either free ourselves from the present economic crisis, reduce its severity, prevent its recurrence, or reduce its negative effects should it occur.

[Question] Under the pretext of "rationalizing expenses," there has been a tendency to impose or increase fees on public services. What is your stand on this tendency; do you support it or oppose it?

[Answer] In principle, we support, and demand, rationalizing expenditures. But we also demand that the one-sided point of view revealed in the application of the rationalization policy be re-examined. Instead of abolishing or reducing beneficiary clauses in the budget, we find that the tendency is to make a broader popular spectrum bear additional burdens and to reduce clauses for essential social expenditures, as happened in the case of subsidies for some consumer goods, or else to cut back on some services, such as food and clothing for students.

Hand in hand with this tendency, the question of imposing or increasing fees for public services has been discussed.

We are not against the idea of fees for services, nor do we go along with the idea of eliminating services indiscriminately. But we are demanding that some concern be shown for low-income groups, and that constitutional guidelines and rulings be adhered to when imposing fees on services.

[Question] The government is calling for administrative reform and the elimination of over-employment, a demand raised by your side before. What do you think of these government calls for administrative reform? How serious are they?

[Answer] When we look at the administrative corruption, abuse of influence, widespread seeking of personal gain, over-employment, hidden unemployment, the backwardness of government administration, and the weakness of the control and auditing agencies, we find that serious administrative reform has become imperative.

But it is a mistake to think that these are purely administrative problems. They are problems which are deeply rooted in our economic, social and political circumstances, and they cannot be cured unless their causes are cured. Without democratic political reform, there can be no real administrative reform.

Unless an alternative economic policy is adopted and concern is directed to developing manpower and guiding it into productive fields of labor, we will be unable to reform the administration or deal with the problem of over-employment. Furthermore, agencies for administrative control must be developed and their jurisdictions expanded. Above all, all those in the government administration who exploit their influence, or are negligent or unpleasant in their duties, must be punished, no matter what their position or the influence they wield.

Otherwise, all this talk of administrative reform can never be serious.

[Question] Over the past 4 years, public funds have constantly been wasted and squandered on extensive land appropriation schemes and on funds to insure Suq al-Manakh speculation. What is your stand on this situation? Is the government responsible, or the present National Assembly?

[Answer] The government certainly bears the greatest responsibility here, for it has been behind it all. The National Assembly, because of its laxity in discharging its responsibility of overseeing government acts and policies, is also responsible to a considerable degree, regardless of its intentions or potentials. At the same time, we must not forget that some deputies played a part in warning against these negative tendencies.

In general, the policy of transferring public funds to benefit certain social groups, and the squandering and exhausting of our resources, must be stopped.

[Question] We have talked a long time about general concerns and problems. Let us move on to education--specifically, the decline in education. This year, more than 7,000 students of both sexes faced the problem of not being accepted at the university and at technical and vocational institutes. Only 49 percent of all public secondary school graduates were accepted--with all that this acceptance implies. In light of this decline, what sort of educational policy are you proposing?

[Answer] The education sector's main problem is the lack of a clear policy for that sector, in addition to the lack of planning and the curriculums' backwardness and irrelevance to what the society requires and needs. The university is also suffering from a lack of independence, which is interfering with its role as a palace of learning and an effective, influential intellectual and cultural pulpit.

Above all, what is required is an educational policy which meets the needs of the society and which serves the goal of developing the national economy and develops educational curricula accordingly. The resources of the university must be strengthened so that it can judiciously accommodate more students and guide them towards those branches of learning which will prepare the manpower Kuwait needs.

We demand that the officials seriously address the problems of the education sector.

[Question] Perhaps you share the view that there is a terrible imbalance in the country's demography. According to 1980 statistics, the ratio of citizens to the total population is only 41.7 percent. What do you think is the reason for this, and what must be done to deal with it?

[Answer] What can be termed demographic imbalance is the result of the lack of a clear-cut population policy, as well as the result of a fumbling economic policy. Building huge projects--sometimes unjustifiably huge--necessitates the importation of huge numbers of foreign laborers. In addition, any license for commercial or non-commercial activity means another increase in this labor force. As long as there is no clear-cut population policy or planning, this population imbalance will become more and more severe. Also, the fact that we are a minority in our own country constitutes an extremely dangerous security breach. There must be a clear-cut population policy which will take into consideration actual manpower needs according to the requirements of genuine, judicious development.

[Question] Housing requests from 30,000 Kuwaiti families have accumulated in government agencies. Do you think the policies and measures being adopted are capable of solving the housing problem, or must there be an alternative policy to treat this problem?

[Answer] Time is not an element in the inability of government housing programs to solve the housing crisis; that is, we cannot say that it is a matter of time before the problem is solved.

The real reason is that other matters must be solved in order for this problem to be solved. For example, the solution of the housing problem is linked with the elimination of the monopolization of land by influential people in order to speculate in land. A very few people are holding on to vast areas of land suitable for housing, while tens of thousands of Kuwaiti families want to obtain good housing.

Furthermore, until the citizen gets a house, he is quite often forced to rent. There is no need to go into the problems of the existing rent law, which needs to be amended.

On top of all this is the sheer volume of the allocations which must be made for housing. Clear-cut plans must be formulated.

[Question] You have often been accused, more often overseas than in Kuwait, of being more concerned with international and Arab issues than with Kuwaiti issues. How do you reply to this charge?

[Answer] Well and good. If reference is being made to those issues which we have been bringing up ever since the Constitutional Assembly, then I believe that this accusation—if it is indeed one—is refuted. Our concern for petroleum issues, from our rejection of the revenue disbursement agreement to our opposition to partnership; for labor issues, beginning with Law No 38 of 1964 which allowed the organization of labor unions; and for housing, inflation and other issues—all shows our concern for issues which concern the citizens and affect their lives and circumstances.

We are concerned with international issues because we are not and can never be isolated from the rest of the world.

There are friends and there are enemies, and we cannot isolate ourselves, nor can we be detached from the issues.

In any case, bringing up all these Arab issues takes up only a little of the assembly's time.

[Question] Light needs to be shed on your stand on some regional and Arab developments and issues—for example, the Iraq-Iran war and the GCC.

[Answer] All right. Since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war, we have warned about its dangers and ill-effects—its harm to fraternal Iraq and its development; to the Gulf's stability and security; and the harm which will

result from the imperialist power's exploitation of the war to strengthen their presence in our region. This war has gone on for more than 4 years now, and the Iranian leaders are obviously the obstacle to stopping it.

We call for following the dictates of common sense; for solving the conflict peaceably on the basis of a just, democratic peace without annexation, incorporation, or the imposition of a specific regime on the Iraqi people. Furthermore, we will never agree to the occupation of a single foot of any Arab land or territory. As for the GCC, it has obviously started to change into a regional alliance, with alliance, security and military issues predominating. Some of its states are directly linked with American strategy through the bases and military facilities they provide the United States. There have been attempts to impose agreements and arrangements, such as the proposed Gulf security agreement, which is inimical to the people of the region and their freedoms, as well as to our national sovereignty and the provisions of the Kuwaiti constitution. In this context, I recall the remark of the deputy prime minister, foreign minister and information minister, who said, "I want to be perfectly truthful in replying to the deputy that the joint security agreement has been signed by many of the member states, but Kuwait has not signed it because it conflicts with the Kuwaiti constitution. Therefore, we will come up with some other wording to avoid this, so that Kuwait can become part of this security agreement, and so that at the same time there can be some mutual security which would transcend this agreement."

In another context, we feel that cooperation and economic coordination in social and educational fields, and in other issues which affect the people and their progress, cooperation and cohesiveness, are either being neglected or are receiving only limited attention at the best.

[Question] One issue which is being used to try to attack national progressive forces is the Afghanistan issue, which is being deliberately inflated to where it takes precedence over even basic national issues. Do you have any comment? What is your stand on this issue?

[Answer] For a start, we will never support any intervention, direct or indirect, in the internal affairs of any people or nation. We are all for leaving the Afghani people to determine their own destiny.

But a well-known power is trying to inflate the subject until it outweighs even our principal causes. Some people are deliberately saying that liberating Afghanistan is more important than liberating Jerusalem from the defilement of Zionist occupation. Naturally, we cannot accept such a statement.

8559
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KUWAIT

NEED TO APPOINT CAPABLE MINISTERS URGED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 23, 24 Jan 85

[23 Jan 85 p 1]

[Editorial: "Ministers For Difficult Times"]

[Text] In critical circumstances, countries need extraordinary governments, and their positions of responsibility need to be occupied by forceful men, loyal to the country and capable of facing crises. We feel that we are at the beginning of the formation of a new government, since the executive authority desires to change the prevailing situation, and is headed for formation of a government possessed of special characteristics, determined by the nature of the stage through which the country is passing, and the foreign and domestic challenges in front of us. This makes us feel, as never before, that we need, at this time, ministers with special qualifications, and consequently a new government with new characteristics. Many times we hear in this world about nations faced with critical situations resorting to formation of coalition governments, gathering together contending parties. Therefore, in dark circumstances, the concept of national unity looms above all considerations, devoting every effort to meet the challenges in a unified way.

We do not have parties in Kuwait, but this does not keep us from demanding a capable government, and having high political and national standards.

Therefore, we impose several qualifications for each new minister, which he must meet in one form or another. These include:

--That he have, chiefly, a political background in the true sense; that is, that he has extensive activity connected with a cross section of the people, to enrich deliberations of the cabinet with opinions and thoughts reflecting the general will of the people of the nation, transmitting the pulse of their feelings and hopes.

--That he be able to comprehend and propose long-range policies, because it is characteristic of this stage that it requires ministers who can reach the bottom

of problems, and discover their solutions, cutting them off at the roots rather than dealing with their branches and what rises from them to the surface.

--That a large section of society witnesses to his integrity and impartiality, so that there are no grounds for doubt which would lead to weakening his position in the government, and consequently weakening the position of the government in Parliament.

--That his competency and talents are not limited to pure administration and technical matters, but also extend to political sensitivity, giving him the ability for broad comprehension of the problems and concerns of the people.

--That he does not see his goal, first and last, as success in accomplishing the task of his ministry alone, but rather sees his basic success in the extent of his participation with his colleagues, who form a homogeneous and powerful working team.

--That the minister has the courage to confront alertly and strongly any debate pertaining to the policy of his ministry in Parliament, so as to be helpful to the government, not a burden to it.

Perhaps a quick look at our current situation moves us to say that the popular impression, held by most people, is that the successful ministers are the political ministers in the current government, while ministers who persist in administrative success are less popular in the view of the people.

If we think about the matter a little, we will see that it means much, particularly since we know that people in all times and places have a guide that does not err in judging success and failure.

[24 Jan 85 p 1]

[Editorial: "Strong Ministers for a Strong Government"]

[Text] Why do we want strong ministers?

Quite simply: because we want a strong government.

And because we see many basic matters left without clear treatment during the previous period. Indeed, some of them were not discussed in a manner rising to the importance and gravity of the situation. This description is almost applicable to a group of policies related to social, security, housing, population, economic, educational and administrative issues.

These are the types of problems which we faced in the past few years, and we did not achieve a definitive treatment of any of them. Therefore, it is necessary to study the coming cabinet; we have just about decided that a ministerial council of technical specialists or administrators will never be able to confront them or discover effective or successful ideas for the elimination of this frightful accumulation of problems and difficulties obstructing our path. We fear that in case of their increasing aggravation, we will be afflicted by a kind of loss of confidence in our ability to overcome them before they become incurable crises exceeding our capacity to treat and solve them.

But if a government is formed including a group of ministers who are blessed with the qualifications which we indicated in detail in an article yesterday, these problems and policies will definitely be treated in a manner favorable to the demands of the people, saving the government considerable effort in facing any opposition which it encounters in the coming National Assembly, winning this time and saving effort for itself and the opposition.

If there were one criticism on which the people agree concerning the current cabinet, it would be a criticism focusing on a basic point, that the cabinet was usually occupied with reactions, rather than initiating action itself. This plunged it into confusion, from which it could not escape, their preoccupation leaving little time for settling problems.

Therefore, Kuwaitis generally insist that the coming cabinet and the new ministers avoid exploration of administrative matters and collaborative or non-collaborative decisions in conferences, or requests for a policy of promotion in this or that ministry, and any other affair the solution of which is proper to the ministries instead of to the cabinet, in order that the cabinet attend to the basic problems which concern the country and its future, and clarification of sign posts for all of the state agencies, thus putting a limit to wandering and lack of clarity of vision concerning a large number of our problems and our general concerns.

Thus the important matter of selection of new ministers appears to be difficult, more difficult by far than the previous duties. Popular insistence is growing that the anticipated change be a real change, in accordance with the gravity of our stage and the size of the external and internal obstacles which confront Kuwait and its people and its next government.

12780
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KUWAIT

ELECTION CANDIDATE DISCUSSES POLITICAL VIEWS

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 27 Jan 85 p 5

[Interview with Dr 'Abdallah al-Nafisi, elected to National Assembly on 20 February 1985]

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah al-Nafisi said that the Islamic movement essentially seeks change and that the scientific concept of change leads to categorizing the Islamic movement as a leftist movement.

In a frank interview with AL-QABAS, Dr al-Nafisi added that Kuwait's current circumstances are not convenient for amending Article 2 of the constitution because the country is not ready for the process of Islamization of its laws and the Kuwaiti society must be slowly prepared to accept this.

Dr al-Nafisi further said that he does not regret the opinions he has expressed in his book "Kuwait: The Counter Opinion" which was printed in London and caused his dismissal from the University of Kuwait.

Following are the details of this interesting interview:

[Question] You are well known for your courageous positions. But it is difficult for people to categorize your political opinions. Are they Islamic or leftist? What is your view of such questions, keeping in mind that a lot of things depend on this categorization?

[Answer] The concepts of Islamic fundamentalism [al-islamiyah] and leftism are extremely distorted in the Arab world. The common concept of Islamic fundamentalism is that of a spiritual, ritual and passive [sukuniyah] religious tendency isolated from life's daily movements. The common concept of leftism is the tendency to be tied to communism and its ideas in analyzing history, economy, society and political systems. It is my view that these common concepts are incorrect and inaccurate. It is beneficial to assert here that Islamic fundamentalism is much broader than what is commonly believed and disseminated among ordinary people. It is also beneficial to assert here that the scientific concept of leftism is a characteristic attributed to any political current calling for change in the direction of achieving greater social justice. The scientific concept of the right is a characteristic attributed to any political current calling for the preservation

of the status quo which is in conflict with the dictates of social justice. In accordance with this scientific concept of leftism, we can say that Islamism, in its political sense, reflects a leftist current because Islamic fundamentalism opposes existing conditions and seeks change. I believe that unless this point is understood clearly, my political opinions will not be understood. My concept of Islam is much broader than what is projected in the Kuwaiti arena. Whoever examines the Koran in its capacity as a book of human and cultural movements, whoever ponders the life of the Chosen One, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, and explores the political and social dimension in his positions and then proceeds to read ibn Taymiyah, ibn Hazm, Abi Hanifah, Malik, al-Shafi'i, ibn Hanbal, al-Shatibi, ibn Khaldun, ibn al-Qayyim and others finds that Islam contains political, social and economic concepts on which no emphasis, regrettably, is put in the Islamic field at present. Rather, we find that the emphasis is focused on the spiritual, ritual and worship dimension which, important as it is, cannot form an adequate base for building an Islamic society. It is perhaps this emphasis on my part on the political dimension of Islam and on its social content that has led to this ambiguity in categorizing me personally. Moreover, I am, as you know, an instructor of political sciences. By virtue of my profession and of the political curiosity emanating from it, I have a scientific and political interest in all current and I am tied by personal relations to those with whom I do not totally agree politically. I find nothing wrong in this but rather find it very beneficial politically and in life. These relations, friendships and connections may have generated an inaccurate and incorrect negative impression. With this, I give you the freedom to categorize me as you wish.

[Question] The decision to dismiss you from the university has been a prominent event in your political life. Can you find an excuse for the government's adoption of this decision?

[Answer] I worked at the University of Kuwait from 1967 to 1978, i.e., for nearly 11 years. The university sent me to get my Ph.D. and I went to Cambridge University in England and returned from it in 4 years with my degree. I could have, in accordance with Law No 29 concerning higher education, spent 10 years in England at the government's expense. But my burning desire for public service in Kuwait and my love for my country drove me to speed up my studies, despite all the exhaustion this meant. I still keep the numerous letters I received from the late Dr 'Abd-al Fattah Isma'il, the first president of the University of Kuwait, and from prominent, honorable and good brother Anwar al-Nuri, the ex-general secretary of the University of Kuwait. All these letters praise my efforts and encourage me in my studies and work. My efforts with my students were always good, God be thanked. Those students are now found in the state's ministries and institutions and whenever I meet one of them, he thanks me and expresses his good wishes for me. I have gone to every part of the world, carrying Kuwait's flag and the name of the University of Kuwait. In 1973, I went to the University of Peking; in 1975 I was invited by Harvard University; in 1976 I was invited by the Soviet Academy of Sciences; and in 1977 by Stanford University. I represented my country at these famous international

universities and my contributions were always for the benefit of my country and for its image and honor. After this tiring journey which lasted 11 years, I received a letter, which I still keep, from the ex-minister of education on 12 September 1978 telling me that the Council of Ministers had decided, out of concern for the public interest, to dismiss me from my position at the university. I asked myself: what act did I commit that was in conflict with the public interest? Then followed the message sent by the minister of state to the National Assembly in which he said that the contents of the book "Kuwait: The Counter Opinion" (1978) and the book's attack on the country's political authority are what motivated the Council of Ministers to make its decision to dismiss me from my position at the university. This is unreasonable and unacceptable and it is not at all enough as an excuse for the government. If the decision were taken hurriedly, without examination and as a temporary reaction to the publication of the book, then it is no disgrace for the government to rescind the decision and correct the matter. But persistence, arrogance, denying people their rights and hanging all this on the hanger of public interest will reap the government and Kuwait nothing but more bitterness. The government has done me a big injustice and I seek God's help against it, and He is the best protector and supporter.

[Question] Do you regret publishing any of the opinions contained in your book "Kuwait: The Counter Opinion" which caused your dismissal from the university on the basis of the wise proverb: not all that is known is publicized?

[Answer] I will never regret publishing any of the opinions mentioned in "Kuwait: The Counter Opinion" which I published in London in 1978 and which caused my dismissal from the university. I had in my bag a lot of information which I did not record in this book. Therefore, I did not tell in the book all that I had known. What I know may require other books. It is beneficial to explain here why the book was published.

As you know, the decree dissolving the National Assembly was issued in the summer of 1976. That decree did the Kuwaiti people an injustice. After the issuance of the decree, I expected a major popular reaction but I was disappointed. With the onset of the 1976-77 academic year, when I was then head of the university's political studies section, I contacted numerous circles in the popular political currents with the aim of developing a united political position vis-a-vis the decree dissolving the National Assembly. The contacts lasted until the winter of 1978 when it became evident to me that popular action in Kuwait was suffering from numerous obstacles, the most important being the political division which obstructed the crystallization of united political positions which were then needed and which are still needed in Kuwait. After becoming certain that my contacts had been futile, it occurred to me to publish a book as an open, declared, explained, dated and documented rejection of the decree dissolving the National Assembly. I noted in the book which was published in 1978 that Kuwait would encounter a stifling economic crisis in a few years and al-Manakh crisis actually did occur. I noted in the book that we need to implement the system of permanent residence for strategic Arab labor and here are the early signs indicating that the officials are now advocating this system. I called on the government to

reexamine the performance of the public administration and urged administrative reform and here is the government admitting now the administrative inadequacy and forming committees to deal with it. So where is the error in the book and why is it considered in conflict with the public interest? Where is this public interest and why did it disappear and melt while they were dealing with al-Manakh market crimes?

[Question] Do you have an objection to the secularism of the state?

[Answer] This is a question that harbors very serious political meanings which, I hope, you comprehend. I understand secularism as a system that calls for separating state from church. Religion, according to the secular concept, is a personal choice on which no collective legislation may be based. The state, according to the secular concept, is a political institution free of the religious framework and of religion's ends and objectives. Whoever takes this into consideration and examines Islam as an ideology for political, economic and social change notices an evident conflict between Islam and secularism. Islam and its main sources, namely the Koran and the Sunna, contain numerous legislative dictates dealing with the affairs of the political authority, with political leadership, with the controls governing this leadership, with how to determine whether this leadership is legitimate or illegitimate, with what is permitted and what is prohibited to this leadership and with the right of Muslims to correct, deter and remove this leadership. The Koran and the Sunna also contain numerous legislative dictates governing commerce, public and private money, the pricing of commodities if such pricing is in the interest of all Muslims, the fair distribution of water, pasture and fuel among people and prohibitions against monopolization, adulteration, cheating and economic waste and other dictates closely connected with the state and with the running of its affairs. This is in conflict with secularism and its approach toward religion. Considering that I believe in the dictates of the venerable Koran and the noble Sunna and in the political, social and economic concepts of these dictates, I reject the concept of the secular state and oppose it unreluctantly.

[Question] Do you intend to make the amendment of Article 2 of the constitution one of the mainstays of your election program?

[Answer] Even though I believe that Article 2 of the constitution should be amended, I do not believe that under Kuwait's current circumstances this step will have a political priority in my election program. Kuwaiti society must be prepared slowly and without skipping phases to accept the Islamization of the laws voluntarily and without any decisions from above. We study the experiences of the others in this regard and learn from them.

[Question] Do you believe that the time has come to enter into a broad and flexible national alliance in the forthcoming elections to prevent the fragmentation of votes and to resist tribal and sectarian divisions?

[Answer] I personally am convinced--and this is known to all the popular political sides in Kuwait--of the need for action by a broad and flexible front

in Kuwait in accordance with broad and flexible objectives. But I do not think that the parties of popular action in Kuwait have yet absorbed this concept in a manner that reflects itself in their political behavior. Therefore, the idea will remain in the realm of wishes.

[Question] Do you think that the pan-Arab [al-qawmiyah] issue has become a "dead issue" that is no longer fit to mobilize the masses for national action?

[Answer] I do not believe that the issue of Arab unity has become a dead issue. Such words are the outcome of the current defeat under which we live in the Arab world. There are dangerous attempts to entrench partition in the Arab world. I say that the currently prevalent theory that the Gulf countries have their special characteristics, the fertile crescent--which is no longer fertile--countries have their special characteristics and the Arab Maghreb countries have their special characteristics which flow into the plot to entrench the Arab nation's partition. We must be cautious about this theory and must fight it and fight the organizations established in this light. I say that mobilizing the masses in this Arab area cannot be achieved in isolation from the Islamic ideology. Even Arab unity cannot be marketed amidst these masses unless it is given an Islamic content. This is a cut-and-dry fact with which nationalists must deal objectively and scientifically.

[Question] Does your election program contain specific bills concerning the economy, administrative reform and other issues that may be implemented during the forthcoming session?

[Answer] Yes, my program contains some general ideas that can be crystallized in the future into specific bills. I prefer to move slowly in presenting them until I complete formulating them precisely.

8494
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KUWAIT

ISSUES DEBATED DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCUSSED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 16-22 Feb 85 pp 16-17

[Article by Husayn Salamah: "Tents of Democracy in the Fever of Parliamentary Elections"]

[Text] A political fever is raging in Kuwait these days. It is a situation that cannot recur either in form or in substance.

Since the second half of January, Kuwait's nights have begun to turn into days. Lights have shone all over this country where there are no more than 650,000 Kuwaitis, a number that is expected to rise to about 850,000 in the year 2000.

The tents of the giants were erected and "democratic camps" were built in preparation for the general elections to the Kuwaiti Parliament that are to be held on the 20th of this month.

These tents were erected on large tracts of land in the middle of inhabited localities, and in the locality where every candidate is nominated there is the election headquarters of the candidates, who numbered 253 after the withdrawals. A very small number, perhaps no more than three or four, are expected to withdraw.

Some of the tents that were erected, for example, the two tents of the rich candidates 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sani' and Ahmad al-Tukhaym, rest on plots 1,188 meters square, and one of them is 66 meters long and 18 meters wide. Under some conditions the tent can hold 1,500 persons coming to the opening of the election headquarters or to attend a political symposium on the general situation.

Although the competition in these elections is keenest among the 253 candidates, the number of candidates in the last elections, which were held on 23 February 1981, was far greater - 475.

However, none of the last five legislative sessions experienced anything like the current atmosphere, which has made the small country live in a "wedding of democracy" far from any means of government pressure or even from any

threat or interference with what is taking place in political, economic, and social clubs and circles where strong attacks are made on the government and its agencies, this being provided by the democratic climate which Kuwait enjoys. The Kuwaiti citizen has clung to democracy from the time it was introduced. The consultative system was applied in the past and democratic activity, which had been represented by the diwans previously, developed into parliamentary activity in which the ideas of the people came together. Democratic life began in 1961 with the formation the first constituent assembly for Parliament and the writing of the Kuwaiti constitution, which the people are determined to preserve. However much political, tribal, and sectarian views and ideologies may differ, there remains a common denominator on which all agree, namely, the unity of national ranks in light of the serious situations facing Kuwait, the most dangerous being the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In every symposium or lecture in the election regions and headquarters, the regime is the object of criticism or blame. The candidates attack government policy and make charges that mostly hide the truth.

There is no doubt that the government watches and knows everything that goes on in these symposiums, but it does not interfere in any of it. It is close to the debates that take place and, like all the other governments in the world, it is interested in having a like-minded legislative group enter Parliament, but it engages in the competition honorably and in a healthy democratic way.

In the camping grounds of the electors that AL-TADAMUN visited and where you rarely find anyone other than a Kuwaiti, the electors listen to lectures on social, economic, political and peripheral issues. The Suq al-Manakh problem, which parallels the Kuwaiti securities market, was not absent from any election site. It was brought up in special symposiums and raised incidentally in all the symposiums. All the lecturers laid the burden of responsibility for this problem on the government and they all charged it will failing to apply the law, which gave rise to the problem.

The media problem, i.e., the Kuwaiti press, was another prominent issue raised in the "election camps." The candidates challenged the press bill submitted by the government. It is still under consideration by Parliament, which refused to assume the responsibility for deciding on it for 3 years until it was put off to the next Parliament. The candidates described this bill as a restriction on press freedom.

The symposiums also discussed the main concern of Kuwaiti youth, namely, housing, because the state has undertaken to provide housing for Kuwaiti citizens with moderate and low incomes. The candidates attacked the piling up of housing requests, now numbering about 23,500, and promised the voters they would deal with the problem if elected.

The candidates criticized the education policy and emphasized the need for a revolution in the educational sector.

In the tent of deputy Jasim Hamd al-Saqr, AL-TADAMUN listened to two symposiums on the situation in Kuwait. Both dealt with the economy and security. Then a very important concern of Kuwait was brought up, the matter of youth and upbringing. Deputy al-Saqr, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of Parliament the last 4 years, warned against the consequences of continuing to rear youth, whether under the influence of home, school or media of all kinds, in the way young people are being brought up today. They are inclined to dependency because of the great luxury and prosperity now prevailing. He addressed the Kuwaiti people, warning them that the coming days might not be like they are today and he urged that a sound educational plan be drawn up to immunize the Kuwaiti youth against the treacheries of the time.

In the tent of Muhammad al-Khurafi we listened to a symposium on planning in Kuwait. Al-Khurafi, chairman of the financial affairs committee of Parliament during the last legislative session, criticized domestic Kuwaiti policy which is not based on planning. He said the lack of planning has led to the problems that are now confronting us, especially the housing and economic and social problems, and specifically, education and curricula.

In the election headquarters of candidate Dr Khalid Nasir al-Wasmi, who represented the progressive trend in the last Parliament, AL-TADAMUN attended two symposiums, the first on the role of the press, where Dr al-Wasmi's colleague, Muhammad Musa'id al-Salih, also spoke. There was wide criticism of the content of the press and publications draft bill and affirmation of the need to preserve press freedom. Dr Wasmi's headquarters is not a tent. It is a spacious basement in his family's house.

The tent of candidate Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Azia al-Sa'dun, deputy speaker of Parliament in its last session, was the site of numerous lectures and symposiums on the economic and political situation during which al-Sa'dun leveled many charges against the government, including its negligence in dealing with the problems facing Kuwait and what he called its direct interference in the general elections.

The only candidate who did not set up election headquarters and was satisfied simply with welcoming his supporters and constituents in his usual offices was Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani, former speaker of Parliament.

Despite the fact that all the candidates engaged in the debates and symposiums, issued statements, and gave press interviews, this man who is known for his great ability to maintain a balance in Parliament remained silent, relying in his election campaign on his reputation derived from public service and from being a member of the al-'Adasani family who have become well-known as judges in Kuwait.

5214
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KUWAIT

PROPOSED MERGER OF MAJOR BANKS QUESTIONED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Jan 85 p 1

[Editorial: "We Do Not Want a Policy of Excessive Trial and Error"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the story published yesterday about a proposed plan under preparation to merge the Burgan Bank and the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East raises a number of questions, question marks and exclamation points about the purpose of such a merger, especially since the government has previously always opposed efforts to awaken doubt about the banking sector and about the sound financial condition of the national banks.

Naturally, among questions raised by the merger plan, one very logical question stands out: Is either of these two banks suffering from conditions which call for concern?

What really causes surprise is that we know that these banks are in good condition; therefore, why this merger? What non-financial and non-economic motivations lie behind this plan?

In the recent past, we heard about a plan by the government to merge some closed companies whose situations had declined, some of which were on the verge of bankruptcy. The plan for merger in this area won wide support in financial circles. But this plan to merge closed companies has undergone unforeseen development, surprising the financial and banking circles with a plan to merge two commercial banks which are not suffering from circumstances which justify their merger.

This step will have local and international complications, because it constitutes a precedent in this area, especially since this originated on the part of the government. Moreover, Burgan Bank was established only 5 years ago. This period is insufficient for the government to change its position on the need for free competition between the national banks, competition which won wide support from high government authorities, and is in keeping with the spirit of free economic system which Kuwait has experienced for 20 years, which led to assured security for great economic growth and comprehensive development. Moreover, it gave Kuwait economic standing and a significant international position.

The merger between the commercial banks appears to be ill-conceived at this time, because opening the field to every bank to work according to the principle of free economic competition increases the strength of the national economy. This is particularly true since some national banks have demonstrated their ability to compete with major Arab and international banks during the past years, and their activities extend beyond the local and domestic framework. There is no doubt that in these circumstances the story about the merger between the banks only gives a bad impression about the banking conditions in the country. The government opposes this impression, but at the same time continues to move on a course of trial and error, which have brought us to a great many crises and complicated problems. We are not disposed to tolerate this excess of trial and error.

12780

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LEBANON

MINISTER AL-HASHIM DISCUSSES UNIFICATION, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 26 Jan 85 pp 23-24

[Interview with Minister Joseph al-Hashim by Joseph Qusayfi: "Joseph al-Hashim, Pierre al-Jumayyil's Successor in National Unity Cabinet, to AL-TADAMUN: New Revolutionary Organizations Have Entered Lebanon; There Is No Disagreement in Regime over Negotiations"; in Beirut, date not specified]

[Text] When Joseph al-Hashim was chosen to succeed the late Pierre al-Jumayyil, the Phalanges Party chairman, to the national unity cabinet, more than one commentator and observer said on the choice: "The bow has been given to him who knows how to shape it." This is because Joseph al-Hashim's abilities to contribute in more than one sphere have been attested to. He is one of those who have achieved their position in political action through constant commitment and not through inheritance. AL-TADAMUN visited Minister Joseph al-Hashim at his office in the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to conduct the following interview, which touches on numerous issues.

[Question] The year 1985 will be the year of important payments coming due, especially since we notice that the picture is becoming vague and more ambiguous. What are your expectations for this year?

[Answer] When the situation becomes as it currently is in Lebanon--a situation that is bleeding at the various political security and economic levels as a result of the links between the Lebanese reality and situation and the other regional and Arab conditions--the issue surpasses all daily expectations and conclusions because the regional and international situation has its positive and negative ramifications for the situation in Lebanon. For 10 years, all these ramifications have been negative. Therefore, I cannot expect many things. Rather, we must deal and emphasize with every reality and every development projected to us. Naturally, the Lebanese crisis or the war on Lebanon, if we may use the phrase, did not emanate from Lebanon. We, the Lebanese, and the observers who are still trying hard to figure out the objectives of this war have not yet been able to visualize an end to the war. But it is axiomatic to say that this war had no specific objectives and that, rather, these objectives began to get clearer and clearer to every citizen at the various levels to the degree that this citizen has become aware of the dangers and complications and that some

international and regional interests are founded on dividing the Lebanese now that the word has turned from "partition" to "groupings" or "cantons." Through all this, the Lebanese have become aware, of course, that there are beneficiaries--and I say non-Lebanese parties benefiting from the division of Lebanon.

As for the payments due, as soon as we finish making one we encounter another. If we wish to overlook certain historical flashes and prominent stops concerning payments due in the past 10 years and move directly to the current payment due, then we say that the current payment due will be the outcome of the ongoing negotiations between Lebanon and Israel for Israel's withdrawal from the Lebanese territories it occupies. There are, naturally, two kinds of withdrawal:

--A withdrawal by consent which will ultimately enable the Lebanese government to fill the security gaps created by the Israeli army's withdrawal.

--A collusive withdrawal that will ultimately lead to complications, the least of which will be sectarian sedition among the southerners and evictions similar to the evictions which took place in the mountain area upon the Israeli withdrawal. This is a military payment due with a political objective. There are political payments due and I do not know the extent of their ramifications, either positive or negative, for the situation in Lebanon. These payments are embodied in this Arab alliance that is projecting itself in the Arab arena, namely the Jordanian-Egyptian-Iraqi-Palestinian alliance and those who sympathize with it implicitly or explicitly. Naturally, there are new pivotal blocs surfacing in the area at present and there must be international patronage for any axis formed, be it Arab or non-Arab. By non-Arab, I am referring to Iran or to Israel, for example. We cannot exclude the shadow of international U.S. or Soviet support for any axis aimed at creating certain balances through what is happening in the area. This, naturally, harbors for Lebanon ramifications whose negative or positive nature we cannot determine now. But it must inevitably be said that the Lebanese arena is being currently exploited, regrettably, to exert political and military pressure on the regional and international parties in order to serve the interests of others at the expense of our national interests and of the interests of our citizens.

[Question] In the face of the Arab axis you have mentioned, we notice that Lebanon is developing and strengthening its relationship with Syria. Isn't this considered tantamount to entering into the Arab sphere of axes which up to now Lebanon has been avoiding since its independence? Consequently, has Syria been able to offer Lebanon the equivalent of what President Amin al-Jumayyil offered by abolishing the 17 May accord and by abandoning numerous international initiatives in favor of the Syrian initiative and of coordinating with Syria?

[Answer] It is well known that Lebanon's foreign policy has been founded since the independence on the policy of neutrality, and positive neutrality at that, which seeks to bring the Arab viewpoints closer to each other. This means that Lebanon has been performing a conciliatory role between the various

Arab sides, settling their disputes and tensions. This is a historical concept of diplomacy which Lebanon has embraced. This concept is paralleled by the special relationship binding Lebanon to Syria for several considerations:

First, there is the agreement between Lebanon and Syria at the outset of the two countries' independence.

Second, the two countries have a neighborly relationship of joint interests.

The relationship between Lebanon and Syria cannot be the same as the relationship between Lebanon and Abu Dhabi. This is not because Lebanon discriminates in its relations with the Arab countries. Abu Dhabi, despite its remoteness, is close to Lebanon as a sister. But geographic proximity and joint interests between any two countries, be they Arab or non-Arab, give the relationship between such two countries a sort of distinction by virtue of their adjacent location and other factors.

As for the second part of the question regarding whether the Syrian officials have been able to offer Lebanon as much as President al-Jumayyil has offered Syria, especially by abolishing the 17 May accord, my answer is that I believe that the Syrian brothers are exerting utterly serious and sincere efforts to bolster the Lebanese position and particularly President al-Jumayyil's position toward his salvation process. Naturally, the Lebanese wish to see the problems from which they suffer dealt with as quickly as possible. But the various brothers, and even friends, who help us have their considerations which pertain to the international and regional policy existing in the area and have certain positions and stances within whose framework they render their services to Lebanon.

[Question] Have you heard Yasir 'Arafat's statement concerning his return to Beirut and his warning Minister Walid Junblatt of a fate similar to his, Walid's father's fate?

[Answer] Yes, I have heard this statement.

[Question] What is your comment on it?

[Answer] I cannot consider this statement a statement defining an international policy or spelling out certain inevitable measures. It is a statement like any other statement made by any other person. What concerns us in this statement are, naturally, two things: first, Yasir 'Arafat may return to the Lebanese arena. Naturally, if the Lebanese arena continues to be uncontrolled and if the army cannot control its security, then we would not be surprised if every military organization in the area has a presence in this arena. We do not deny that today's Lebanon is the result of a setback on whose causes and creators I do not wish to dwell. It is the setback to which the army was exposed while it was performing its security role perfectly. This setback has allowed a number of revolutionary and radical organizations to re-enter Lebanon and to sabotage the security situation in the Lebanese arena. There is no better proof of this than the

numerous incidents that have taken place in Lebanon, especially in the western parts of Beirut where the kidnappings continue. The latest such acts were the kidnapping of the Swiss charge d'affaires and the increasing acts of unrest in the places where the legitimate Lebanese government has no actual presence.

The second thing in Yasir 'Arafat's statement is his warning to Walid Junblatt. 'Arafat told Walid's father what he is telling Walid now. I do not wish to consider this warning something fundamental and reliable. The truth is that the Lebanese, especially the officials among them, are exposed [to danger]. All of us, both officials and citizens, are risking our lives at present for the sake of the salvation process. If we can save the future by exposing our lives, then this will be a commendable act for our future generations, for history and for the homeland.

[Question] Some international circles fault Lebanon for taking in al-Naqurah negotiations intransigent and radical positions void of all flexibility, thus giving the impression that this will generate reactions on the part of the Israeli side, which is seeking to gain international understanding for its position. It is also feared that Israel's accusation that Lebanon is intransigent in the negotiations will lead to negative ramifications for the future of the south and, consequently, to the future of the homeland. Moreover, the Lebanese Forces have, through their commander Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir and their information media, attacked the approach of Prime Minister Rashid Karami and of Brig Gen Muhammad al-Hajj, the head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation, expressing the view that the two have taken an exclusive position toward this issue. Is there disagreement within the government on the method of negotiation, or is it the opposite?

[Answer] (Interrupting sharply) What is a flexible position and an inflexible position? Lebanon is an occupied country that cannot at all adapt its position in a manner that conflicts with its sovereignty over its soil and its dignity. The issue pertains to the deployment of the UN forces. In accordance with Security Council Resolution No 425, these forces must be deployed to support the Lebanese army or, in other words, to protect Lebanon's security from Israel, not vice versa. Israel is demanding the opposite, i.e., that the UN forces act as a security force protecting Israel's security from Lebanon whereas the opposite is what is right. Israel's demand is in violation of the word of Resolution No 425. Now we seek, of course, to have the operations of the UN forces expanded in a manner that will prevent any dangers that may emanate from any partial or collusive Israeli withdrawal.

[Question] Should Israel agree to the deployment of the UN forces with the Lebanese army in the entire south, would the Lebanese government approve such a deployment?

[Answer] If such a deployment can support the Lebanese army and insure the safety of the Lebanese, then I don't think there will be any objections. The objection exists because Israel wants to use the UN forces to insure Israel's, not Lebanon's, security.

[Question] It seems that today's Lebanon is approaching a hunger revolution and that economic affairs and daily life are moving from bad to worse. The question is: though the national unity cabinet has failed to reach agreement on political issues which have their international dimensions, what prevents this cabinet from moving decisively to stop this forthcoming revolution, especially since the knife of economic decline will reach all necks and especially since hunger, if it arrives, will devour all without any distinction or discrimination between citizens and areas?

[Answer] I believe that there is a three-sided plot against Lebanon: a political side, a security side and an economic side. We cannot separate one side from the other. If the security situation were stable, the economic situation would be stable and the dollar would not be close to reaching 10 Lebanese pounds in value. This is due to the security situation that is getting worse by the day and that is eroding confidence in the Lebanese authority and government. Thus, the issue is not a specific issue concerning the hungry and those exposed to hunger. It is, as I have said, a many-sided issue and there are those who collude in obstructing Lebanon's security, political and economic progress. Though the obstructing circles are foreign circles, we blame some Lebanese sides that go along with the external will leading to the Lebanon to the threshold of collapse.

[Question] The mountain was the "barometer" of Lebanon's unity. Now you are a minister from the mountain and you are aware of the condition in which the mountain is floundering. It seems that the mountain issue has become as complex as it can be, that the mountain's dossier is folded and tied to the comprehensive solution for Lebanon and that there is no hope of quick solutions for the mountain and its evacuees, so therefore...?

[Answer] (Again interrupting:) The south has now become the most prominent objective of Lebanon's unity or rather the main inlet to the unity of the Lebanese because it constitutes a common denominator for the Lebanese will. The Lebanese will has never before been as unanimous on anything as it is now on the question of rescuing the south. This is why we have proposed the army's reinforced entry into the south and said that this army must be a mixed army and not just a balanced army so that unity within this establishment may be strengthened. This will, naturally, lead to uniting the people and the soil through the army. Those who obstruct this plan or obstruct the reinforced and concentrated deployment of the army are wagering on the mountain card so that the mountain, which was the inlet to unification and to the south, may become another inlet to division. In this regard, we will do all we can to foil these endeavors that are obstructing the government's arrival in the south in order to rescue the south and rescue all of Lebanon.

[Question] How is your relationship with Minister Nabih Birri?

[Answer] It is a very good relationship that surpasses personal considerations for general national considerations.

[Question] What is your current position toward Minister Walid Junblatt?

[Answer] My position toward Walid Junblatt is not a personal position. Junblatt holds certain positions that are in conflict with our convictions and I believe that we are in conflict with the conviction of many Lebanese, both leaders and the popular bases. But there are those who have not expressed their convictions yet. The position toward Walid Junblatt is a principled national position before being a personal position.

[Question] Are you satisfied with the cooperation between President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami?

[Answer] The relationship between President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami is a good relationship. There is deep understanding between the president and the prime minister over all the public issues raised.

[Question] What is the repercussion of your relations with the people I have mentioned because of your participation in the government with the Phalange Party?

[Answer] The party has, of course, asserted repeatedly that it supports the steps taken by the president. There is absolutely no problem in the fourth axis, meaning the trio you have mentioned: the president, the prime minister and some parties in the government. The party is moving positively in this direction.

[Question] What is your opinion of the army's current situation?

[Answer] The army has been prepared to perform a fundamental role in the sphere of salvation. But regrettably, false and fabricated obstacles are raised to strike the army. These obstacles may be inspired by foreign circles. I do not wish to note here that the army had reached a phase of adolescence which almost promised total reassurance when well-known secret fingers began to obstruct this march because the regional wager was not on Lebanon's unity but was, and continued to be, on dividing and partitioning Lebanon. Today, the army is engaged in an endeavor to unite its ranks and words so that it may achieve the desired goal, namely the goal of uniting the soil and the people. But the same obstacles which obstructed the army in the past, foiled the Fourth Brigade in Khaldah and hampered the army's march--an army about which international experts said that it had attained in a short period of time a magnificent level of rehabilitation--are not hampering the army's future steps.

LEBANON

POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC REVIVAL IN 1985 EXAMINED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 412, 12 Jan 85 p 47

[Article: "Lebanon's Economic Revival Depends on 1985 Policy; On Top of Its Economic and Security Problems, Lebanon Suffers from Emigration and from Drop in Monies Flowing to It from Lebanese Expatriates"]

[Text] What kind of economy will Lebanon have in the new year, which started nearly 2 weeks ago? What main features can be drawn up for the coming period, which is an unknown, both politically and at the security level?

It may be very difficult to speculate now on the 1985 economic course, especially since political and security visibility is nil and since visibility is engulfed in the thick clouds of Lebanon's atmosphere, beginning with the faltering security plans and the unstable security in the provinces and ending with the Israeli occupation of the south which vacillates between partial and conditional withdrawal and non-withdrawal. Each of these possibilities is bitter and hard.

But it seems that speculation is possible and less difficult if it relies on the outcome of 1984 and on examining this year's most prominent economic results. The year 1984, with its economic and social tragedies, will extend to 1985 if no fundamental and decisive change occurs in the political situation. But should this change occur, the Lebanese economy will begin a new phase to which the consequences of the previous phase will cling for a time.

What was most prominent in 1984?

Perhaps the most prominent indicator of the past year which has gone unlamented is the record decline in the Lebanon's pound's exchange rate versus the dollar and the other currencies.

This price dropped to 549 piasters per dollar at the end of 1983 and the 889 piasters per dollar at the end of 1984, meaning that the dollar's price rose by 61.9 percent. This is a record drop which occurred mostly in the second half of the year when the dollar started gaining by big leaps amidst a climate abounding with anxiety and fear.

Consequently, the dollar's price rose in the Beirut market from nearly 381 piasters per dollar at the end of 1982 to 889 piasters per dollar at the end of

1984, i.e., increasing by 133 percent. This means that within 2 years, the pound lost 60 percent of its real value and this loss is reflected in the degree of deterioration occurring in internal and external economic activity.

If the decline in the pound's exchange price in the past 2 years has come as a payment due for the constant drain of 9 years, then this decline has exposed clearly how fragile the situation is. It has also exposed the exhaustion of the reserve with which Lebanon was fighting all its problems and challenges. This means in banking terms that the credit carried over from previous years has now become exposed and that, also in banking terms, any further drain shows immediately on the screen in red.

The danger in the decline of the pound's exchange rate to this level lies in the fact that the currency is the mirror of the economy and an indicator summing up all other indicators, especially the given facts that constitute the mainstays of any currency.

What does this decline in the pound's exchange rate reflect?

Perhaps the first image emerges in the domestic product which is founded on the various activities, especially industry, agriculture and services.

In 1984, industrial production reached its lowest level, hardly constituting 20 percent what it was before the Israeli invasion. The latest statistics show that Lebanese industrial and agricultural exports amounted to nearly 2 billion pounds at the end of 1984 compared to more than 5 billion pounds at the end of 1982, a drop of nearly 60 percent. However, this drop is calculated at current prices. By actually calculating the drop at the fixed prices of 1982, it becomes obvious that the exports dropped by no less than 75 percent, considering that the inflation rate exceeded 25 percent in the past 2 years.

The decline in exports emerges clearly when we see the degree of paralysis and destruction inflicted on the industrial establishments. It also emerges clearly when we see the agricultural output which is faltering in terms of production, shipping and exports. This production has now reached the point where it is barely adequate to meet local consumption needs.

What is said about the drop of production in industry and agriculture can also be said about the drop of production in the sphere of services, especially in tourism, banking, insurance and other services. Tourism has been hit in the heart, relying currently on internal tourist activity and failing to attract any foreign tourists. The banks are straining under the impact of the freeze on the external flow and the increase in internal remittances. The insurance companies are suffering from the narrow market, the growing competition and the increasing risks, not to mention the "symbolic" tariff which is being eroded by the inflation that is escalating year after year.

The fact is that the constant decline was compensated by the Lebanese economy for years, and by a large degree through the remittances flowing into this economy from either the Lebanese working abroad or from foreign investments.

The year 1984 perhaps constituted a turning point in this regard. The remittances flowing from those working abroad and estimated at \$130 million a month dropped in 1984 to about \$60 million or less, meaning that they declined by 50-60 percent or by as much as the decline in the national product. This drop in remittances is the result of economic factors existing in the Arab oil countries where most of the Lebanese working abroad, both workers and businessmen, are centered. The signs of the forceful return of the Lebanese to their country began to emerge last year and are expected to intensify this year as a result of the dismissals that have taken place in the major contracting companies in the Gulf countries in which the Lebanese have had the lion's share.

As if the drop in the monies flowing into Lebanon from abroad is not enough, the country has been afflicted by a counter drain embodied in the increasing number of Lebanese leaving the country for either tourism, education or treatment, not to mention the foreign workers who drain every month a considerable amount of hard currency. Thus, the drain to the outside world and the drop in external resources have collaborated and Lebanon has begun to suffer from a stifling economic crisis as a result of the drop in domestic production and in the external flow.

Perhaps what happened at this level in 1984 provides an explanation concerning the main reasons for the deficit in the balance of payments--a deficit which has been the main cause behind the drop in the pound's exchange rate.

Therefore, it can be said that 1984 has produced a stifling economic crisis whose features are evident in more than one sphere and which has been translated into an inflation that is a warning of further complications in the social problem because inflation is causing sharp increases in the prices of the various food and consumer goods at a time when incomes are dropping as a result of unemployment and inflation.

Can anything other than security and politics change these given facts in the new year?

8494
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LEBANON

STAFF, OPERATIONS OF 'RADIO LOVE' OUTLINED

Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 401, 7-13 Jan 85 pp 20-21

[Article by Edmond Shadid: "South Lebanon's 'Radio Love' Is Surprising, Isn't It?"]

[Text] We are all aware that a number of private radio stations belonging to the Lebanese parties and sects have sprouted in all parts of Lebanon. There is no need to list them because we all know and hear them. Each of these radios sings "its own tune" and broadcasts news as it wishes and according to its policies and objectives. The citizen is at a loss as to whom to believe: this radio or that? His thoughts are aimless and his nerves are tense. The overwhelming majority of the citizens want to know the truth, especially amidst this sea of painful events, and they chase these radios one after another hoping to hear a report that will ease the pain of their wounds and alleviate their concerns and worries. But what annoys the citizen most is that all these radios carry disturbing news, especially those private radios that rekindle despair, grief and fear in the heart. The citizen then remembers that these very same radios have contributed largely to destroying the country and to paralyzing its economic activity and have implanted hatred in the hearts of the people.

However, it must be said that the south has steered clear of this climate and has continued to be a forerunner in giving and a model of love, harmony and sincere coexistence. As the south has stood fast in the face of all the attempts to drag it into the difficult experience of the past 10 years, it will continue to offer goodness, learning and thought as it has done in the past in these humanitarian and intellectual spheres. To maintain this level of ethics and awareness and to keep the southern citizen free of the concerns imported from outside the south, and so that the tense nerves may relax and rest, the South Lebanon Radio was born out of awareness and understanding on 10 October 1984. It was born small and it has not grown in size, but its quality has improved and its listeners have grown in number.

On the morning of 10 October 1982 [as published], the voice of 'Ayyad, the station's founder and general director, was heard. He decided to expose youth to the south's music and culture and to restore to the area the social life that had been absent for a long time. The same voice continued to entertain a small number of listeners for a whole month, speaking at times in the

Lebanese dialect and at others in English, telling love stories and playing songs. At the time, two persons took part in the venture: Joe, a youth with experience in radio who had worked at a Lebanese radio station and who was the director of programs at the Radio Trait D'union in the French city of Lyons while he was completing his studies in business administration, and Lina, a young woman in love with the microphone. The radio started transmitting for 13 hours a day on FM 91 MHZ. Since then, this radio has entered every home and institution and all have become attached to it. Prominent figures have supported its recreational, social and art programs, which have transmitted joy to the heart. Officials from Beirut, the governor of the south and the chairman of al-Shuqayf Municipalities Union have taken part in seminars conducted by the radio. Joe has organized several shows in the area. He has also organized a sanitation campaign in al-Nabatiyah area in which the Environmental Protection Agency and municipal workers participated. We must not forget the variety show organized every Sunday somewhere in the area and in which local singers and amateurs take part, with valuable awards given at the end of the show (the show is organized and produced by Joe). The radio also offers the Saturday night show which is held in a southern home. Every night, the listeners go to sleep to the warm voice of 'Ayyad, who attracts the largest number of listeners with his poetic words on the "Evening Break" program. Lina, the announcer, presents the audience's request and brings joy to the listeners' hearts with her gentle voice, urging the listeners to send their letters to be broadcast and answered frankly by Joe on his live program, which is carried every afternoon. We should not forget announcer Amal who presents the program "Horizons" in French and in which she offers instructions on how to make French dishes and on learning Italian and in which she also conducts interviews at schools.

The radio team is comprised of:

- 'Ayyad, the 22-year-old founder and general director of the radio. He was in Beirut and then returned to his province, seeking to rekindle joy in the hearts of young men and women, and "Radio South" has become a part of him. This is the first act of its sort in the south at the individual level and without any external aid, despite the numerous difficulties facing it.
- Joe, the 24-year-old manager of the radio programs. He does the impossible day and night to produce the most beautiful programs and to steer away from the customary routine of the private radio stations. In addition to his radio work, Joe also works in the economic field.
- Malik Shams is the official in charge of public relations and commercial advertising.
- Samir, an 18-year-old sound engineer who has studied video engineering in Italy.
- Muhammad, a 21-year-old employee in charge of the radio's archives and the coordinator of daily songs.
- Kamil, a 20-year-old man who works behind the scenes and is concerned with production. Before any program is aired, it must pass the radio station's Studio Two for editing.

- Hasan, a 23-year-old man who works in the control room and is concerned with the quality of the sound reaching the listeners' ears.
- Lina, a 21-year-old woman who trembled the first time she spoke into a microphone and is now one of the best women announcers.
- Amal, a 20-year old woman in whose eyes the tears of fear sparkled at the outset and who is now in total self-control.

All these people have created a radio of goodwill and love from almost nothing because money has not once entered in the calculations of Radio South Lebanon and has never been a language in which this radio's workers deal. It is a free radio that might be the best solution for a world in which money prevails and that might be, as it calls itself, "the voice of harmony, love and friendship." It is surprising, isn't it? Yes, it is surprising at a time when love and humanity no longer have a place in this catastrophe-afflicted homeland.

8494
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LEBANON

PORT OF BEIRUT REGAINS LEGITIMATE IMPORTANCE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1470, 4 Jan 85 pp 46-47

[Article by Sharbil Zughayb: "Work from Dawn to Dusk in Security; Routine Sets Anchor in the Port of Beirut"]

[Text] When the cabinet took its resolution to close the illegal ports, some of them did not take this resolution seriously, while those who knew the true state of affairs and who are close to the security forces confirmed that the state was serious this time in implementing its resolution. The closing of the illegal ports is only the first step in a trip of a thousand miles towards the realization of internal peace and social security.

In spite of the fact that some merchants kept their imported goods in foreign ports to find out the truth of the matter and to know white from black, when these merchants realized the determination of the state they returned to bringing in their goods through legal ports supervised by the Lebanese state in all areas.

Even though some consumer goods have increased in price as a result of the increase in customs duties, because the illegal ports were charging lower duties than the state, the Lebanese citizen has "swallowed" this price increase to help the state and to facilitate its control over all sectors and regions, since the illegal ports were allowing necessities to reach the militias and the organizations, allowing them to remain and to continue, and so the closing of these ports has cut off these importations.

Those ship owners who had become used in the past to the lack of determination on the part of the state in implementing any security resolutions looked carefully for any discrepancies and they did not give any credence to these resolutions. Some of them continued to use these illegal ports, intending to unload their cargoes, but how quickly the magician is mystified. They felt immediately the danger of this work, which led to their trial and verdicts against them and against their ships, and their being banned from entering Lebanese ports in the future. These sentences made the other ship owners loath to enter the ports not under the control of the state or located under Israeli occupation. This cut out all activity in these ports, especially in Sayda and Sur.

There are not very many legal Lebanese ports. Beirut's port is the major port in Lebanon and is the first port in the Middle East as concerns transit between Europe and the Arab World. Beirut's port is the opposite of other official institutions in that there are no divisions among its employees and laborers, but rather the economic factor controls the intellect of the workers, and they have not disagreed except within this context. All Lebanese families coexist there, and it is the meeting place of all areas in that it is located between the East sector and the West sector, having two doors, one facing the west and the other facing the east. No one from the East or the West is prevented from entering the port. Each gate is guarded by a unit of the Lebanese Army, which does not allow any armed personnel to enter the port compound which is considered to be a neutral zone not under the control of any military organization other than the control of the Lebanese Army. In this manner all on the inside cooperate and work side by side to earn a living for their families.

When the security situation deteriorates all of a sudden between the east and the west, all of the employees settle down in the bunkers to avoid the bombs and bullets. When the situation quiets down, they return to work, because the Lebanese have gotten used to these relapses.

The Port of Beirut is similar to a beehive at this time, as the merchants supervise the unloading of their goods, and the porters carry the goods after they have been lifted off the ships to the ground by the large cranes, and afterwards smaller cranes transport them to the proper warehouses.

Some of the merchants plan to offload their goods in large containers used especially for this purpose, having already taken care of official paper work in advance and having paid the customs duties prior to the unloading.

The long ships carry automobiles from abroad in addition to consumer and luxury goods. These ships line up outside the port awaiting permission to enter it, one after another, to the dock assigned to each according to the length and the cargo of each ship.

One of the merchants in the port said that no matter what measures the Lebanese state takes, it will not be able to restore to the Port of Beirut the vitality and glory that existed prior to the war, since all of the operations of this port used to serve the Arab states by way of transit, especially to Saudi Arabia and to Iraq. Saudi Arabia has been able to dispense with the services of this port to a large extent while poor political relations between Syria and Iraq have limited the activities of the Port of Beirut directed toward Bagdad. In addition, the closing of land routes has affected very negatively operations of the port. Also, goods were held up in the port due to red tape, which was harmful for the merchants as a result of the role of the inconstant dollar, while realizing at the same time that no such red tape existed in the illegal ports.

Political arguments that raged over the Port of Beirut were not directed at all of its docks, but rather at only one of the docks, Dock No 5, which was controlled by the "Lebanese Forces," who use it for importing purposes. In fact this dock is not really a dock according to the strict meaning of the

word. According to one of the officials of the Port of Beirut, it was basically constructed as a support dock for Dock No 4 and at that time it was called "Port de Service" by the engineers. When the state resolved to construct Dock No 4 it set aside funds for the construction of a small dock whose task was to provide facilities for the ships carrying construction materials such as dirt, cement, steel (al-bahs), etc. Which was used in the construction of Dock No 4. It was not given any official name or capacity. When the work on Dock No 4 was completed, the Lebanon war broke out, and the Phalange Party took control of the port. However, instead of using the other docks which are controlled by the customs authority they used this small dock which had no specific designation until it was given the name Dock No 5, as a sign of its use by the Phalange and later by the "Lebanese Forces."

At this time, the Lebanese army is spread out the length of the dock since it is devoid of any ships carrying goods, and the army prevents anyone from approaching by order of the commander of the army. This decision even includes the fishermen to prevent any problems, either with the administration of the port or with members of the army there. The only ships which have the right to enter this basin are small ships carrying passengers between Beirut and al-Jiyah and transports headed south or coming back to Beirut, all of which is by virtue of the al-Awali. When these conditions abate, then without doubt the ships will discontinue service due to the great difference between traveling south by boat and traveling south by car.

Security within the port and especially at Dock No 5 is completely stable and that is because of the security established especially for the port by the state. It is similar to the security forces at the airport having complete authority to arrest any person that they suspect and to fire upon those people who do not obey the orders of the army personnel. This is because entrance to or exit from the port is just like entering any sensitive area in that every person is subject to being searched, as well as the soldiers themselves, and their automobiles, to prevent the introduction of any prohibited materials into the port or to prevent the entrance of any person who has no business inside the port. A search is also conducted upon exit from the port to make sure that all goods have the necessary official documents attached from the port administration and from customs. Since the resolution closing the illegal ports was issued and since security duty was handed over to the Port security group, no breaches of security have been reported nor has there been any foul play concerning goods, invoices or vouchers. This is an indication of the extent of the state's determination with respect to applying its resolution and on the other hand it is an indication of the longing on the part of the Lebanese for legitimacy, security, law and order.

Head of the port, George Ashqar, said: "Before the closing of the illegal ports we suffered a great deal since no ships entered the Port of Beirut except those which did not pay any customs taxes such as livestock transport ships for example. This matter was very harmful to activity in the port. However, when the state closed the illegal ports, the situation changed drastically and many ships began to arrive at the port, including foreign ships and especially the large ones. This is a positive sign that the Port of Beirut is returning to its natural state of affairs. These ships have

the right to stay at the dock for the period required to unload their cargoes, provided that they pay the tariffs to the state. Today we find ourselves well disposed to receive ships and to perform the work on all the docks since we work hard all day. There are at least 300 workers on the 15 wharves as well as their managers, the drivers, and the small and large crane operators, in other words more than 1,500 workers per day, not including the administrative personnel.

In regard to the complaint about the administrative red tape associated with the Port of Beirut in comparison with the illegal ports, Mr Ashqar said that the private sector always performs more services than the public sector in order to attract people to it. Also, it has the ability to work quickly; for example, if the private sector is in need of a crane, it can buy one in less than half an hour, whereas we are required to collect a lot of information before we can arrive at the decision to purchase this crane. The illegal ports can also coerce the ships to work through the night and day, whereas in the public sector we are not able to take such measures. This is because the state is bound in the final analysis by its concern for the conditions of all of the workers subject to its authority and is bound by many other considerations, given that our laws have been in force since the time of the French Mandate. These laws need to be changed and reviewed in form and content, and as the administration of the port, we have presented a draft to this end; however, the emergency circumstances which exist around the country have absolutely blocked this project.

In regard to security Mr Ashqar says that the port includes all strata and sects of people and we in the port all live together as one family, and we work together in a natural manner without complexes, disagreements, or fear. The most important aspect of all this is that every time the Port of Beirut returns to work, we do not record any absences for any worker or employee, no matter what sect they belong to. This is the opposite of the state of affairs inside other official organizations. We all continue working from 0700 in the morning until 1700 in the afternoon, and this type of schedule never occurred during normal operations before the war, even the managers take their work home to complete it and bring it back the next day. In addition to that I can confirm that there have been no attempts to breach security within the port area. The security forces are in tight control and they are on the watch night and day. We, as management, employees and workers, cooperate with the security forces because this is a matter which is good for all within the port.

12390
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SYRIA

AL-RAQQAH CIVIL SERVICE PROJECTS REVIEWED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 15 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] As you enter al-Raqqah Province, you are stopped by important sights of civilization and its economy, which have been achieved for the masses of this bountiful province under the aegis of the blessed corrective movement and its leader, Struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

The housing buildings scattered throughout the city, the industrial installations, the asphalted roads and the water and rural electrification projects have transformed the province into a permanent workshop which contributes to the building of modern Syria, whose foundations were laid by the blessed corrective movement.

If we remember things as they were a few years ago, take a glance at the city of al-Raqqah and its expansive countryside and compare the province's past condition to its present one, we see the extent of the major development which has occurred in all areas of life.

The city of al-Raqqah has turned from a town with a population of no more than a few thousand in 1970 into a modern city with a population of well over 110,000 residents and with wide avenues and beautiful gardens. Furthermore, al-Raqqah has attained a high standard of development and of cultural achievement.

The province's countryside lived previously in stark darkness. However, this countryside now scintillates with major agricultural projects which depend on modern agricultural mechanization and on the most modern and sophisticated scientific methods of improving production--quantitatively and qualitatively.

TISHRIN has observed all the projects which have been implemented in the province in this new year of the glorious corrective movement, which aims at serving the citizens, insuring their prosperity and buttressing the economy of our country and which remains steadfast against all the conspiracies concocted against it.

Al-Raqqah city council oversees implementation of the city's public service projects, whose cost amounts to approximately 33 million Syrian pounds. These projects include building many parks, as well as buildings, asphalting and paving the city's streets and electrifying many of them, in addition to building many rainwater ducts and other public service works.

Some years ago, there was only one park, that is, al-Rashid Park in al-Raqqah, and it was neglected. However, at this time, and thanks to the great efforts which are being exerted, numerous parks have been opened:

--The introduction of some improvements into al-Rashid Park by the city council.

--An 8-donum children's park has been set up by the city council and supplied with all types of children's games.

--The 7 March Park, with an area of 12.5 donums, was set up by the military housing establishment.

--Al-Baja'ah Park, with an area of 8,600 donums, was inaugurated on 12 April 1984.

--Al-Jala' Park, with an area of 12,400 donums, was set up by al-Raqqah branch of the military housing establishment and inaugurated on 15 April 1984.

--The municipal bath park, with an area of 6,652 donums, was established by the city council.

--Al-Tabbani Park, with an area of 1.5 donums, and the Road Construction Company carried out the construction work, while the city council provided the accessories.

--There are also the Martyrs Park, with an area of 38 donums, and al-Ta'minat Park, with an area of 19 donums, on which work is in progress; both are about to be completed.

--The municipal garden park, with an area of 18 donums, and the 8 March Park, with an area of 3 donums, are being established by the city council's park authority, and they too are on their way to completion. In addition to these parks, work is in progress on the construction of a number of squares and ponds in the city.

Recently, all the studies, which are needed for the organizational plan for an expansion zone lying between the two bridges in the city of al-Raqqah, were completed. This zone has an area of 373 hectares. It includes the lands situated between the new bridge and the old bridge to west and east and between the river's bank and al-Raqqah approach to south and north, in addition to a longitudinal extension from the old bridge in the direction of the municipal slaughterhouse.

This area in particular has been chosen because it is directly located at the entrance to the city and because it represents the city's civilized face. This area will be simultaneously a tourist and a residential area. The plan for the area includes a 3.5-km long and 24-meter wide corniche overlooking the Euphrates, and it extends from the beginning of the new bridge to the slaughterhouse, where this corniche connects with the wall corniche to form the southwestern ring around the city. From the corniche emanate the secondary and branch roads which link the housing units to the public utilities.

The public utilities, which occupy half the area of the zone, include kindergartens, elementary and preparatory schools, camps, chalets, canteens, a yacht club, popular centers and government departments, whose blueprints have been laid down in a splendid, modern style.

Designs have been completed for the residential area, which constitutes the other half of the area, and its specifications call for the construction of two-storey residential villas, because the soil in this area is clayey and is used for agriculture and will not hold more than two stories.

The plans formulated by al-Raqqah water establishment include the implementation of the projected new water network at a cost of 32 million Syrian pounds-- and the branch of the General Company for Water Projects has completed well over 80 percent of this project--the project for the two pumping and flowing pipelines, the reservoir on the mountain and the construction of a new station--and this project, which was implemented by the General Company for Irrigation Installations, SARICO, at a cost of 12 million Syrian pounds, has been 100 percent implemented--the project for the execution of industrial work on the city's filtration station--and the General Company for the Implementation of Industrial Projects was assigned to implement this project, which has been 100 percent implemented at a cost of 6 million Syrian pounds.

Water projects have not just been limited to supplying al-Raqqah with potable water, but they have transgressed this limit to the province's countryside. The countryside has been given great care by all the province's responsible quarters. In 1980, only 6 villages in the province with no more than 3,000 residents had the benefit of water. However, water has now been piped to most of the residential areas in the province. Drinking water has been supplied to 131 villages with well over 100,000 residents. Sources of the water branch at al-Raqqah technical services directorate say that pure drinking water will be piped to most of the housing groups in the province by the end of the Fifth 5-Year Plan.

The cost of the water projects which have been implemented this year has amounted to some 12 million Syrian pounds, which has been spent on the following projects:

--Al-Balikh Basin water project: this project supplies drinking water to just 20 villages with no more than 19,000 residents. This project is now undergoing final preparation, and part of it will be put to actual use on the 14th anniversary of the corrective movement.

--Al-Ishtirakiyah water project: this project will be inaugurated as part of the country's celebration of the 14th anniversary of the corrective movement, and it is nothing more than supplying drinking water to the last village bordering on Dayr al-Zawr.

--The water project of al-Mansurah: the neighboring villages and 12,000 citizens stand to benefit from this project, which will be inaugurated on the anniversary of the country's celebration of the holiday of the glorious corrective movement.

--The artesian wells: the drilling department of the technical services directorate has drilled 10 artesian wells at a cost of 1.5 million Syrian pounds in the various areas of the province. Only 30 villages benefit from these wells, which have been placed in actual service during this year.

--The Shams-al-Din and adjoining villages water projects have been implemented by the General Water Company at a cost of 7.5 million Syrian pounds. The water source of the project has been procured. Well over 15,000 citizens will benefit from this project, which is now ready and is being handed over.

--The Shuray'an and Huwayyat 'Abadan water project has been put into use on this year's anniversary of the October liberation war. Well over 2,000 citizens benefit from this project.

--Al-Karmuzat water project was inaugurated on the 8 March anniversary of this year. More than 2,000 citizens benefit from this project.

In addition to these projects, many networks have been built in the province's cities and villages, and many other projects have been boosted and strengthened with electrical equipment.

Prior to the glorious corrective movement, the share of al-Raqqah Province did not exceed scores of road kilometers, while today most of the province's villages are interconnected by a modern road network. The cost of the road projects which have been implemented this year has amounted to 47,160 million Syrian pounds. The total length of the roads which have been built this year amounts to 227 km, including maintenance and asphalting.

Al-Raqqah branch of the road construction establishment has built about 70 km of these roads at a cost of 27 million pounds. This work included asphalting and paving al-Mansurah approach highway and asphalting and paving the roads of the cities of al-Raqqah and al-Tabaqah, as well as al-Thawrah city highway and the Kadiran-al-Ba'th dam road, and asphalting the desert road, completing the northern approach of al-Raqqah city and asphalting the Aleppo-al-Raqqah road. However, the roads branch of the technical services directorate has built and asphalted approximately 157 km of secondary roads within the province. Up to 1984, the length of the roads which had been built and asphalted was within the limit of 970 km, the length of the asphalted roads was 180 km and the length of the dirt tracks 45 km. In other words, the length of these roads has increased by 300 percent since 1980.

On the occasion of the country's celebration of the 14th anniversary of the blessed corrective movement, al-Salhabiyat-Kadiran 11-km road will be inaugurated, as well as a new 5-km rural road, the Hamrat Ghannam 7-km road, the 'Ali Bajaliyah 6-km road and al-Mansurah township approach at a cost of 3.2 million Syrian pounds, in addition to the inauguration of a number of other secondary roads.

Special importance was given to the food supply issue by the corrective movement leadership through the food supply establishments and the companies which were established for this purpose. The second automatic bakery of

al-Raqqah was put into active service this year with a production capacity of 12 tons.

Furthermore, Distributive Consumer Project No 16 was implemented at a cost of 3.5 million Syrian pounds, and a contractual agreement was signed with the construction company for the projected strategic food supply depot at a cost of 10 million Syrian pounds. The number of retail outlets in the province has increased to well over 50 outlets. Al-Raqqah silo has been enlarged to a capacity of 100,000 tons, making an increase of 50,000 tons over the present silo at a cost of 27 million Syrian pounds. This silo helps increase the storage of the largest part of the province's grain purchases of wheat and barley and helps cut down on open space storage and its economic repercussions. Furthermore, many new halls were opened for shoe companies, in addition to the distribution of textile products in the districts and the city to cover the province's needs.

Electricity came to al-Raqqah Province in 1953. Only al-Raqqah city was then lighted by small sets of power generators. In 1959, al-Sabkhah village was lighted, and it was the first village in the province to be supplied with electric power. The second village, Tall Abyad, was lighted in 1961. The number of the lighted villages in 1974 was six villages. Furthermore, 2 villages were lighted in 1976 and 10 villages in 1977. In 1978, 17 villages were lighted, and in 1979, 12 other villages were lighted. Thus, the number of villages which were supplied with electric power since 1953 up to mid-1979 was within the limit of 47 villages. Following the separation of al-Raqqah power supply from the northern area power supply in 1979, electric power was furnished to 14 villages in 1980 and to 57 villages in 1981, and 82 villages were lighted in 1982. However, in 1983, 114 villages were lighted.

Therefore, the number of villages to be supplied with electricity was within 314 villages up to the end of 1983. This year, al-Raqqah electricity directorate has laid down a plan providing for the lighting of 91 villages, and well over 70 percent of the plan has been achieved and most of the villages, whose provision with electric power supply is slated under this year's plan, have been put on the service list.

We see through the figures which have been cited that the implementation ratios have been proceeding at a quick pace, particularly during the past 4 years. Since 1953 up to mid-1979, electric power had reached only 47 villages, whereas we notice that since 1980 up to the end of 1984, the number of villages which will be supplied with electricity will be 405 villages. In accordance with al-Raqqah electricity directorate's plans, it is expected that electric power will be supplied to all the families and groups in al-Raqqah Province countryside in 1986.

The glorious corrective movement has devoted great attention to the issue of education, particularly in the provinces which are growing from the educational perspective, including al-Raqqah Province, and those who read the figures and statistics realize this fact. In 1961, there was only one preparatory school in al-Raqqah Province. However, schools have now been set up in the province's villages, and the number of preparatory schools is now more

than 46. If we take a look back, we see the large increase in the number of teachers. In 1961, the teaching staff of al-Raqqah Province consisted of 208 teachers. However, the teaching staff is now well over 3,074 teachers, and the number of the elementary-phase students this year amounts to more than 74,000 students.

The construction of school buildings in al-Raqqah Province took long strides in the past year. Last year, buildings were erected for 44 model schools consisting of 350 branches, which accommodate well over 17,000 students at a cost of 22.5 million Syrian pounds. These buildings are scattered all over al-Raqqah Province. However, this year, foundation stones have been laid for more than 64 schools comprising 384 branches. Nine schools will be inaugurated during the country's celebration of the 14th anniversary of the glorious corrective movement and cornerstones will be laid for another number of schools in the province's countryside. The cost of school buildings this year amounted to 35 million Syrian pounds. We can say that no housing group or village remains without a school. The number of schools in the province has exceeded the 500 mark.

In addition to al-Raqqah national hospital, which has more than 180 beds and in which 30 specialized doctors work, this year the cornerstone was laid for the construction of a hospital on al-Asad Lake in al-Thawrah city with a capacity of 120 beds at a cost of well over 120 million Syrian pounds. This hospital will be built by the military housing establishment. Furthermore, a new four-storey building has been built for the tuberculosis center in al-Raqqah and a polyclinic in al-Mahmudi--Tall Abyad and Saluk at a cost of approximately 6.5 million Syrian pounds. The number of health centers amounts to about 13 centers spread throughout the province. However, in the domain of hygiene and prevention of disease, al-Raqqah Province has been given the attention of officials, particularly following the emergence of the blessed corrective movement. This year, the border strip with Turkey was sprayed with insecticides all over a length of 130 km and a width of 10 km from the city of Tall Abyad and al-Balikh River up to al-Hishah village. The spraying was done by al-Raqqah health directorate. The Euphrates Basin Exploitation and Development Authority also sprayed more than 3,000 hectares with insecticides from the air, which has made the city and its rural areas clean and acceptable.

Our country devotes great care to the subject of agriculture. The continuing meetings of the Higher Agricultural Council and of the branch agricultural councils, as well as the discussion of matters connected with production and exploitation, are nothing more than a clear indicator of this care, which is aimed at achieving a contemporary and sophisticated agriculture, which will contribute to a quantitative and qualitative increase in production.

The area of the lands which were cultivated with cotton this year for the private and cooperative sectors is 281,000 donums, out of which some 242,800 donums were cultivated mechanically. The general condition of the crop ranges from fair to good due to the appearance of thrysus which has attacked the crop.

Some 46,230 donums have been planted with corn and a yield of 10,000 tons is expected.

Approximately 98,279 tons of beets were delivered to al-Raqqah sugar refinery out of the area of 45,130 donums planted in the province.

With regard to the exploitation plan, the branch of al-Raqqah military housing establishment and the military construction authority have established many guidance units and al-Raqqah agricultural bank has extended different loans worth 30.5 million Syrian pounds, including 27 million Syrian pounds in short-term loans and 3.3 million Syrian pounds in medium-term loans. Well over 17,000 peasants--cooperatives members and private sector peasants--have benefited from these loans.

Furthermore, al-Raqqah agricultural mechanization branch has implemented all the plans scheduled for it.

Al-Rashid Establishment has also implemented its agricultural exploitation plan, which includes cultivating 2,000 hectares with nonirrigated black barley, 200 hectares with nonirrigated wheat and 400 hectares with irrigated wheat.

The cultural movement has developed in al-Raqqah Province under the aegis of the glorious corrective movement. In addition to the old cultural center in the city of al-Raqqah, work is now in progress on the construction of the new cultural center in the city of al-Raqqah by the branch of the military construction establishment at a cost of over 23 million Syrian pounds and on the al-Asad cultural house in al-Thawrah city, which has been built in accordance with the most modern architectural designs.

Some of the halls of al-Asad Cultural House were used during the ninth regional festival of the Ba'th vanguards, and work continues on this great cultural establishment. In addition to these centers, there is a cultural center in al-Thawrah city and another one in the Tall Abyad city.

With regard to loans of books, the center has completed the book classification and indexing process in accordance with the practices observed. Some 5,800 books were added to the old books this year, and more than 5,000 citizens have benefited from books and magazines. Furthermore, mobile cultural units have been established, which regularly tour most of the province's villages and state farms to extend all cultural services, such as loaning books and magazines and showing scientific and cultural documentaries and agricultural guidance film footage. Numerous courses have been started for children to teach them drawing and sculpture. Furthermore, 16 lectures were delivered and 13 soirees and 10 fine arts exhibitions were held this year.

In the current year, al-Raqqah archaeological department has renewed part of the old mosque and al-Mansurah walls. Seven national and foreign archaeological missions have also arrived in the province to dig for antiquities available in the province. These missions have recently completed their work, after having handed all the archaeological finds to al-Raqqah Museum.

In the area of communications with the outside world, the gear of the national large-scale microwave project has been assembled, in cooperation with the Japanese manufacturing company, among al-Raqqah, al-Ghazili and Tall Abyad. The project is expected to be put in active service soon following the conclusion of the reception and operation tests.

In the field of rural telephone services, rural service technicians maintain all external copper lines, repair telephone service faults in all the province's villages and maintain the equipment of the province's telephone exchanges. In addition to these services, the following tasks were carried out this year:

- Extending a copper circuit from the village of Ma'din up to the Mughlah Kabirah village for a distance of 2.6 km, connecting this circuit with the Ma'din exchange, erecting 52 telephone poles and installing crossbeams and insulators.
- Extending a copper circuit to Buhamad village and connecting it with the village of Ma'din for a distance of 2.6 km.
- Extending a copper circuit to al-Hamrat group for a distance of 10 km.
- Expanding the internal network in al-Thawrah city by 100 lines and overhauling the old network.
- Extending a copper circuit to al-Raqqah water establishment, the reservoir, for a distance of 5 km.
- Extending a copper circuit to al-Suwayda' village situated on the border of Dayr al-Zawr and connecting it with Ma-din for a distance of 4 km.
- Having achieved the erection of 20 poles for the Vanguards camp and having extended a 5-line (poletene) suspension cable.
- Extending a copper circuit to the baked brick factory for a distance of 10.5 km.
- Building public telephone booths in Mazra' al-Qahtaniyah.
- Installing a 200-line exchange in al-Karamah subdistrict.
- Installing a 30-line manual exchange in al-Akirash village.
- Installing a 50-line manual exchange in Tall al-Samin farm.
- Installing a 10-line manual exchange in al-Shal village.
- Installing a suspended network for 75 internal lines for al-Mughlah subscribers.
- Building a 10-line public booth for Ghanim al-'Ali village.

--Building a 10-line public telephone booth in al-Salhabiyah.

--Building a public telephone booth in al-Kalkah village.

--Building a 20-line public telephone booth for Raklah village.

--Installing a 100-line exchange in Kabrayran and putting it into active service under number 25808.

--Establishing a copper line for a public telephone booth in al-Razz village and connecting it with Tall Abyad, without this having been put into active service.

--Establishing a copper line, which is on its way to completion, for al-Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr for a distance of 67 km, with 75 percent of the work having been completed.

In addition to the factories already available in the province, such as al-Raqqah sugar refinery and the prefabricated duct factory, the baked bricks factory has been established at a cost of 50 million Syrian pounds. The purpose is to draw maximum benefit from the layer resources available in the province and to turn them into manufactured products that meet the province's needs. The factory produces well over 40,000 brick blocks a day, which meets the needs of the province and of its villages and farms. A final word: to these projects can be added a set of other projects in the rural towns--projects costing well over 100 million Syrian pounds. Thus, the province has adopted a number of magnificent new achievements by the glorious corrective movement for the masses of this province, which always emphasizes that it will remain an impregnable citadel for the Ba'th Party and for the struggling leader, Hafiz al-Asad.

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SYRIA

CEMENT COMPLEX MEETS NATIONAL DEMAND, YIELDS EXPORT SURPLUS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] The fertilizer industry is one of the developed industries and its establishment had been proposed since the dawn of independence near the end of the forties. However, this proposal assumed a serious nature only following the emergence of the 8 March revolution. In 1966, it was decided to set up the nitrate fertilizer plant in the city of Hims to produce Kalnitro fertilizer with a 26 percent nitrogen concentration. A contract on a study and on the submission of plans was signed with the Soviet Union for this plant, which includes the following sections:

Ammonium Section

This section has a production capacity of 1,000 tons of ammonium a year; it was implemented by the Italian Snamprogetti Company.

Azotic Acid Section

The Soviet Union set the technological procedure for this section, exported the equipment for it and oversaw its assembly. It has an estimated production capacity of 78,000 tons a year.

Kalnitro Fertilizer Section

This section has a production capacity of 148,000 tons a year with a 26 percent nitrogen concentration. The Soviet Union presented for this section too the observed technological procedure, while Czechoslovakia exported the instruments and oversaw their assembly.

Production Services Section

Italy studied the project to establish this section and exported its equipment.

General Mechanical Workshop

The Soviet Union studied the project for the establishment of this section and exported its equipment.

Completion and Development

This industry did not stop at this limit following the emergence of the corrective movement owing to this industry's importance in both the industrial and the agricultural domains and to its great and positive economic effect. Efforts were focused on the completion of the Kalnitro fertilizer plant project, which was inaugurated [words indistinct] 1962, which coincided with the [words indistinct] enlightenment by introducing chemical fertilizers as one of the most important factors of agricultural development--a factor which has become fundamental in agriculture. Chemical fertilizers have also become a need which grows with one agricultural year after another and which affects crops in accordance with the ratios of their use.

Naturally, this continuous relationship between crops and fertilizers has prompted the introduction of new types of fertilizers previously unknown to farmers in the two frameworks--local in the form of imports and external in the form of exports. The most important of these kinds is the urea fertilizer produced by the urea fertilizer plant, which was built with a production capacity of 335,000 tons a year. This same plant, in turn, consists of the following units:

Ammonium Section

This section has a production capacity of 300,000 tons a year of ammonium, out of which 180,000 tons are used in the production of urea fertilizer.

Urea Section

This section has an annual production capacity of 315,000 tons of urea fertilizer with a 46 percent nitrogen concentration.

Production Services Section

This section provides treatment water and steam for the above-mentioned plant.

Phosphate Fertilizer Complex

In 1975, the construction of the above-mentioned plant was followed by the establishment of the phosphate fertilizer complex with an annual production capacity of 450,000 tons. The project for this complex was implemented by the Socialist Republic of Romania, together with its following units:

Sulphuric Acid Unit

This unit has a production capacity of 560,000 tons a year, which is adequate for the consumption of the afore-mentioned complex and exceeds this consumption by approximately 140,000 tons, which covers the country's requirements of this substance in the various other industrial domains.

Phosphoric Acid Unit

This unit has a production capacity of 165,000 tons a year of phosphorus pentoxide--a substance used in producing trioxide superphosphate.

Trioxide Superphosphate Fertilizer Unit

This unit produces a phosphorus pentoxide concentration of 26 percent and has a production capacity of 450,000 tons a year.

Aluminum Fluoride Unit

Aluminum fluoride is used in absorbing the fluorine generated during the processing of phosphoric acid and in preventing the pollution of the air with these gases. The amount of this unit's annual production is 3,000 tons, which is exported.

Production Services Unit

This unit provides the above-mentioned complex with its requirements of treatment water and steam.

Boosting Production

In 1972, production of the kalnitro fertilizer amounted to 65,000 tons. The new plants, which went into production in 1982, are intended to meet all the country's cement requirements. Eng. Ahmad Al-Turk, the company's director general, expects the quantities of various kinds, which will be handed to the agricultural bank this year, to amount to the following:

--115,000 tons of kalnitro fertilizer with a 26 percent nitrogen concentration;

--215,000 tons of urea fertilizer with a 40 percent nitrogen concentration;

--200,000 tons of trioxide superphosphate fertilizer with a 46 percent concentration of phosphorus pentoxide. This is in addition to the export of 200,000 tons of urea and 20,000 tons of trioxide superphosphate fertilizer. A study is now underway to use the ammonium surplus available at the ammonium urea plant in producing composite fertilizers containing the two nutritious ingredients of nitrogen and phosphorus for the purpose of manufacturing the fertilizer ammonium biphosphate to meet the increase expected in the consumption of fertilizers accompanying the land reclamation process and the increase in the irrigated areas of the reclaimed land as well as the increase in the fertilizer consumption of some nonirrigated land areas. In 1992, the country's consumption is expected to amount to 370,000 tons of phosphorous pentoxide and 210,000 tons of nitrogen, in comparison to the consumption of this year, 1984, which is limited to 100,000 tons of phosphorus pentoxide and 120,000 tons of nitrogen. All the production of the presently existing plants at their full export potential is now being consumed. In addition, it is intended to set up a new project for the production of fertilizer ammonium biphosphate.

It is obvious, the director general said, that this large expansion in the domain of this strategic industry should be coupled with an increase in the number of technicians and ordinary workers. Therefore, the number of workers rose from 525 workers in 1966 to 3,365 in 1984, which increased the number of engineers from 23 to 140, and the number of production engineering personnel from 506 engineers and workers to 2,950. Many of these technicians were sent for training courses in countries which were well developed in this industry, such as Britain, the FRG, the Soviet Union, Romania and Austria. During these courses, they specialized in maintaining machines and operating them, in addition to the fact that the company has delegated engineers and technicians of all specializations to many other public sector establishments. The company has trained and still trains students from the chemical and petroleum engineering college of al-Ba'th University. It also oversees their graduation theses and gives them the practical theses directly connected with this industry. The college also participates in the committees of judges during the discussions of the graduation theses of this college. Company engineers and technicians also teach and train the students of the intermediate institute for the chemical industries, with the company allocating some of its laboratories for this purpose. Furthermore, all the permanent and temporary workers of the company are subject to the social insurance law.

These workers are insured against all risks and are given free medical treatment and medicines, in addition to payment by the trade union organization of half the cost of their families' treatment. Within the framework of providing social services, "more will be said about this subject"; the company opened a nursery for the children of well over 200 working mothers. The company also opened a consumer establishment which secures most of the everyday commodities necessary for the workers. It also founded a workers housing society, which has secured housing buildings for well over 80 families of participating members. Within the framework of health services, the company offers all its workers' quantities of milk and eggs.

Therefore, the General Fertilizers Company covers all the country's needs for nitrate and phosphate fertilizers at an average of 180,000 tons of phosphate fertilizer, 210,000 tons of urea fertilizer with a 46 percent concentration and 110,000 tons of nitrate fertilizer with a 26 percent concentration. These figures are for this year, as Eng 'Adnan 'Isa, deputy director general and technical director, has said. He added that nitrate fertilizer with a 30 percent concentration, instead of a 26 percent concentration, is now being delivered to the consumers, beginning in October, after we have made alterations in the production machines. The total annual production until last month, October, was as follows:

--170,000 tons of phosphate fertilizer, and 280,000 tons will be produced next year;

--92,000 tons of nitrate fertilizer "kalnitro," 110,000 tons will be produced next year;

--175,000 tons of nitrate urea fertilizer, and 246,000 tons will be produced next year.

One should bear in mind that the plan was based on the premise of the trend toward the timely securing of spare parts and materials on the one hand and benefits from acquired expertise on the other. It is imperative to note at this point that the production of the plants has made a hard currency savings of \$98.8 million, secured jobs for well over 3,500 workers, saved import procedures and achieved agricultural stability by providing materials at the required times. In addition to "more will be said about this subject," and the preparation of technical cadres already noted, the company has contributed to the achievement of economic integration with regard to the industrial labor turnover in the development domain. The company draws naphtha at an annual average of 190,000 tons--and this quantity increases and decreases in accordance with the company's general plan. This substance is drawn by means of a special pipeline linking the Hims refinery--the production source--to the ammonium plant. The same applies to fuel, which we use in generating steam. We draw fuel from the refinery in specially built pipes through which the steam-operated electric power generation plant is given its fuel needs.

The company also transports phosphate with 29 percent and 41 percent concentrations from the General Company for Phosphates and Mines, mainly by railroad and sometimes in our vehicles or in this company's vehicles, at an annual average of 600,000 tons. Thus, the General Fertilizer Company is considered the sole consumer of phosphate within the country and as one of the best customers among the importers, even among foreign importers.

The technical director and deputy director general continued his statement to TISHRIN by saying: This year, the company solicited tenders for the transformation of the ammonium unit in the urea plant in such a way that the natural gas produced by the oil fields of al-Rumaylan and al-Jabsah is used instead of naphtha for purely economic reasons. Meanwhile, for its part, the refinery is mapping out plans for benefiting from naphtha in the processing of other materials. We are now holding our final discussions on signing the contract needed for implementing this transformation with Creuse Loir Entreprises, a French company, which is the basic contractor for the ammonium urea plant, at an estimated cost of 35 million Syrian pounds as the value of the fittings, installation and operation, excluding civil work, provided that implementation begins within 16 months of the date the contract enters the implementation phase. It should be borne in mind that we are now laying a pipeline to transmit gas from the fields to the company through the Czechoslovak Teknoexport Company at an approximate cost of \$130 million, and the oil ministry oversees the building of this pipeline. As a result of the existence of a surplus quantity of ammonium, estimated at 250 tons a day in excess of the 600 tons needed by the urea production unit and of the 150 tons needed by the kalnitro fertilizer plant, there is now an idea based on using this quantity in manufacturing ammonium biphosphate fertilizer through the establishment of a new plant with a daily capacity of 1,000 tons--a plant to be added to the group of General Fertilizer Company's plants.

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SYRIA

BANYAS REFINERY PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN TARTUS, COUNTRY

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] On the 14th anniversary of the glorious corrective movement, Tarsus Province dons its robe decorated with the wreaths of construction and fruition, bands its waist with renaissance and progress and produces material wealth for the homeland, thanks to the economic progress which it has witnessed under the aegis of the corrective movement. On this occasion Tartus Province presents Struggle President Hafiz al-Asad, the builder of modern Syria, with love and gratitude and pledges to him to be bountiful and productive and to forge ahead under his leadership toward a progressive and socialist society.

We need no prelude to emphasize that all that we now see--a building and economic renaissance as well as factories, plants and public utilities--was achieved during the years of the corrective movement. Tartus, as a province, can even say that it has built the corrective movement. Under the aegis of the corrective movement, all the organizational and administrative forms were completed and all the state's institutions were established in them.

On the 14th anniversary of the corrective movement, we can say a great many things about what has been built in our province. However, we will select two prominent installations that look like two lofty bastions on the shoulder of the mountains and facing the sea because of their pioneering role in the national economy. These two installations are the Banyas refinery and the Tartus cement factory.

In the Syrian Arab region, industry grew considerably under the aegis of the corrective movement in the domain of the various industries in general and in the domain of the oil industry in particular. This industry has witnessed ambitious plans for building and expanding numerous factories to establish a solid industrial foundation to serve as the basis of growth and prosperity in the Syrian Arab region.

The Banyas refinery is one of the important oil installations in the Syrian Arab region which play a vital role, whether at the provincial level or at the country level. This enormous installation is one of the gifts and gains which have been achieved for Tartus Province under the corrective movement. What about this refinery and its role in the national economy?

The Banyas refinery was created under Decree No 1,035 for 1975. It was taken over temporarily by the Romanians on 31 March 1983. The value of the contract and its supplements amounted to \$316.5 million. In addition, some civilian tasks were done by the national companies, which played a positive role in this respect.

The tasks carried out by the national companies in the refinery were the construction of shelters, internal roads, administration and production buildings, storage depots and their courtyards, vocational training centers, a tanker parking lot, expanded local laboratories, workers changing rooms and an equipped workers club, in addition to afforestation projects and the planting of trees scattered over the refinery grounds. Furthermore, a modern car park and central vehicle repair floor space were built.

What is even more important than the above-mentioned projects is that work has started with regard to the construction of the housing city for the refinery workers. The first batch of completed apartments will be handed over as part of our workers' celebrations commemorating the corrective movement this year.

Refinery Supports National Economy

The refinery's maximum refining capacity amounts to 6 million tons. It produces butane gas, high-octane gasoline and regular gasoline, aviation fuel, mazut, fuel, asphalt and sulphur.

The refinery went into production in 1979, during which year the refinery produced 226,960 tons. In 1980, the refinery produced 1,709,725 tons; in 1981, 4,143,150 tons; in 1982, 4,425,675 tons; and in 1983, 4,498,920 tons. However, in 1984, despite all difficulties, production reached 4,442,000 tons by 5 November 1984. The 1985 plan calls for the refinery to produce 5.7 million tons, that is, 95 percent of its maximum capacity. The value of the refinery's annual production amounts to 4 billion Syrian pounds. It is planned that in 1985, the sum of 385,734,000 Syrian pounds will be remitted to the Finance Ministry, in addition to 406,939,000 to the Customs Department and a budget surplus of 366,696,000 Syrian pounds. In addition, the refinery performs an important role in the national economy through hard currency transfers to the state treasury.

Refinery Sections

The refinery consists of several units:

The production units include an atmospheric distillation unit and a vacuum distillation unit, a (merox) unit, a kerosene hydrogenation unit, a mazut hydrogenation unit, a heavy products hydrogenation unit, an amines treatment unit, a sulphur recovery unit and an asphalt oxidization unit.

The utility units include a power station to secure electricity and steam, a nitrogen unit and a compressor unit to insure a supply of air.

The service units include the main feed tanks, the intermediate product tanks, the main product tanks, the chemical injection stations, the two torches, the asphalt packing and loading unit and the final product mixing stations.

The refinery has a mechanics workshop, an electricity workshop and a precision equipment workshop. There are also several laboratories for product analysis throughout all the operation processes.

Fight Against Pollution

Industry is one of the important yardsticks of the development and progress of any country. However, industry contributes to the pollution of the air and affects living creatures. As an enormous installation, the Banyas refinery has such an effect. However, science and modern technology contribute to keeping pollution within internationally accepted levels. For this purpose, the Banyas refinery is equipped with chimneys and high torches which insure the dissipation of the sulphur oxides released from the burning of fuel in the refinery's kilns and by the two torches. The interest of competent quarters in the subject of pollution resulting from the Banyas refinery had led--also under a decision made by these quarters--to the refining of raw materials with a small amount of sulphur, which results in a fluid fuel with a relatively low sulphur content. Naturally, this reduces the generation of sulphur oxides in the kilns and these oxides' contribution to pollution. Furthermore, the Banyas refinery was fitted with specially designed tanks for storing petroleum substances to generate steam pressure. With regard to the gases released by the oxidization of asphalt, the Banyas refinery connected these gases to the sulphur chimney to be released at high altitudes and thus scatter dissipate and get rid of the pollution arising from water channels and deoiling basins.

Units were built for the treatment of acidulated water with steam in such a way that this water is heated in a special kiln and its products are transmitted to the sulphur chimney. A contract was also signed with the water company to build a covered channel to drain water from the refinery to the sea. A unit is also being set up to treat water from the refinery before it is drained in the sea. Specifications are guaranteed to be within the permissible limits.

Manpower

The number of those working in the Banyas refinery is 2,250 employees distributed in accordance with the following ratios:

8.8 percent higher degrees.

Intermediate institutes; 23.4 percent.

Technical workers and those under the preparatory school level: 41.5 percent.

The Banyas refinery technical cadres are distinguished by their youth and enthusiasm. Most of them belong to the toiling class--and the refinery was established in response to their situation to insure an honorable life for them.

It is imperative for us to note that the national cadres operate all the production units, and the number of Romanian experts decreased as a result. In 1982, there were 450 Romanian experts. Following the increase in the number of national experts and their growing ability to confront the challenges of work, there are now only 73 [Romanian] experts. Next year, this number is expected to go down to 44.

In the area of services extended to the Banyas refinery workers, the system of production incentives has been applied since 1 July 1984. Meanwhile, medical treatment, medicines and surgical operations are given or performed free of charge. In the refinery, there is a workers polyclinic consisting of eight rooms and including a clinic and five doctors. All those working in the refinery are subject to periodic medical examinations every 6 months. Furthermore, the polyclinic is equipped with prognostic equipment and with a special first aid and medical care ward.

With respect to housing, many workers were given housing in the workers city because the nature of their work requires their presence near the installation. There are plans to accommodate all those working in the housing city.

When it comes to the workers who live in their private homes, buses and microbuses operate between the two provinces of Latakia and Tartus to transport them all and, in addition, they operate on roads and on the main axes in the rural areas. Finally, greetings from the Baniyas refinery workers to President Leader Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of our nation's march to victory, and greetings to the corrective movement on its 14th anniversary.

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SYRIA

TARTUS FACTORY PRODUCES 34 PERCENT OF NATION'S CEMENT

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] The Tartus cement factory is a lofty testimonial of the rich and flowing gifts which the corrective movement has granted to the province. This factory stands erect like a citadel and its chimneys rise high to tell history that there will be no cement crisis from now on, and the talk about this vital installation is fascinating and enjoyable. Inasmuch as this factory reminds us of the crisis which the country had experienced prior to the factory's take-off, it furnishes us adequate evidence of the cement prosperity in which the country lives--and the country now looks for markets abroad so that cement, which had earlier been draining the national economy, will become a source of national revenue.

Cement Essential for Industry

Some people describe cement as being the bread of industry. If this is true, then we know that the Tartus cement factory is a major number in the equation of the country's renaissance and development. Cement is a factor of construction and no economic and construction progress can be achieved without cement. The Tartus factory produces about 34 percent of Syria's total cement production, and the value of its annual production is 70 million Syrian pounds.

The Tartus cement factory is distinguished by a very important aspect, which is that the larger part of this factory was built by national companies and with local expertise. All the civilian tasks, such as buildings, structures, chimneys, courtyards, roads, electric works and fuel reservoirs, were all carried out by the national cadres of the public sector companies, in addition to the other tasks which were implemented by the company during the formation process. If we turn these words into figures, we conclude that the value of the above-mentioned tasks, which were carried out by the national companies, amounts to 600 million Syrian pounds, which is the value of the tasks which were carried out by the company workers themselves during the period between the formation and preparation of the technical cadres, and the take-off of the production lines. The value of the tasks, which were carried out by friendly companies from the GDR, amounted to \$110 million. These tasks were limited to bringing in blueprints and equipment and assembling the equipment.

On the other hand, the Tartus cement factory has been a complete technical school from which many cadres and experts have graduated, to the extent that they are now a valuable asset owned by Tartus Province. Furthermore, the cadres who have been prepared and who earlier had no technical background have faced the challenge and achieved the most complex construction tasks. The 150-meter-high chimneys were built by our workers and technicians. These workers personally prepared and lined these chimneys, which have become a symbol of experience and know-how and a major achievement for the country's working class. There can be no doubt that true national feelings were behind the technical creativity demonstrated at the Tartus cement installation.

Let us give an example of the ability of our national cadres. A contract worth 30 million pounds was to be signed with a company for the factory's electric cable bearers. However, they were manufactured at no cost by the factory's technical cadres. Furthermore, the mechanical equipment was maintained by the factory's technicians, and this has saved well over \$5 million.

Manpower

Some 2,000 personnel work for the Tartus Cement Company, including engineers, technicians, administrators and workers. There are 90 engineers of all specializations, in addition to 250 assistant engineers and 500 graduates of secondary technical schools, while the others consist of vocational workers, administrators and others. The company offers good services to its staff members. With regard to housing, there are 375 family apartments inhabited by technicians and workers and a bachelor residential quarters building which accommodates 400 persons. A study is under way on the construction of 1,000 housing units. However, the other workers are transported from and to their residences in the villages and districts and on all work shifts.

In the housing city, a school, a consumer center, a vegetable market, a polyclinic and a workers restaurant were established.

Regarding work, the company offers clothes, shoes, protective clothing, masks, medical treatment and medicines. Furthermore, the Tartus Cement Company workers are paid compensations and salaries for rewards.

Excellent Location

The Tartus cement factory was built on this location in response to numerous factors, including:

--A growing construction development movement requiring that cement be available.

--Absorption of technical and productive manpower.

--Exploitation of the raw materials available in the province near the work location, that is, calcareous sandstone and basaltic sandstone.

--An end to the cement import process to save foreign currency and export surplus production to foreign markets for the purpose of increasing foreign currency revenues.

--The factory's proximity to Tartus Harbor, which facilitates the importation of the factory's equipment and the export of the production surplus.

Company Sections

The Tartus Cement Industry Company includes several directorates for production, technical and administrative affairs, planning, financial and trade affairs and accounts. The production directorate comprises several sections, to wit:

--The stone quarry section, which develops quarries, extracts calcareous sandstone and basaltic sandstone and transports it to the crushers.

--A section of which handles raw materials and carries out the crushing of the materials coming from the quarries and transports them to the silos.

--A section which pulverizes clinker and gypsum to produce cement.

--A section which produces clinker.

--A section which packs cement and loads vehicles, trains and waste tank trucks.

--The auxilliary station section, which supplies all the factory's sections with compressed air, fuel, steam and water as needed.

--The laboratory section, which plays an oversight role and which makes productive designs in all the phases of production through chemical and physical analyses. The technical directorate includes the following sections:

--The mechanical maintenance section, which carries out planned maintenance work, repairs unforeseen defects, manufacturers some spare parts and restores some worn-out parts.

--The machinery maintenance and repair section.

--The warehouse section, which undertakes the process of storing and bringing in and taking out spare parts.

--The civil tasks section, which follows up the carrying out of outstanding work within the installation and builds baked brick maintenance passageways.

Development Horizons

The Tartus cement factory, which ranks as the fourth [largest] cement factory in the world, is characterized by its high technology. However,

experience has revealed the possibility of developing this technology. Our technicians and engineers play an important role in this respect, in addition to the role played by our friends.

During our conversation with Eng Harun Harun, director general of the Tartus Company for the Cement and Construction Material Industry, he mentioned the vistas of the development which is to be effected. He said: Some of these vistas are immediate, and there are some with which we will catch up later:

We will begin at this time to alter the crushers to adapt them to the humidity of the raw materials. Furthermore, silos are being altered with air cannons to avert the molding of the materials.

Furthermore, the refrigerators, clinker transporters, locomotives and packing instruments are being altered to exploit the trains in the process of cement transportation. In this regard, a bale factory is now being built to pack 50 bags in 1 bale.

In the domain of development, our national cadres also study the development of the production lines' capacity, and we hope that this study will be crowned with success.

Conclusion

This is the Tartus cement factory, a big symbol of our economic renaissance. During our tour of the factory, those working at this huge installation asked us to convey all love, appreciation and loyalty to Struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of our nation's march toward liberation and unity.

Blessed be the powerful hands which mixed with blood and built the Tartus cement factory. Blessed by the corrective movement which created the atmosphere and brought forth the latent potential of these creative people.

12839
CSO: 4404/155

SYRIA

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR PRODUCTION REACHES 40 BILLION POUNDS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] In the course of the corrective movement since 1970, the industrial and mining sector has enjoyed a growing interest during the 5-year plans which have been implemented. The volume of the allocations made for investments in the domains of industry and mining rose to approximately 7 billion pounds in the 1970-1975 5-year Plan, and to well over 19 billions in the Fourth 5-year Plan, only to shoot up to 27 billion pounds during the Fifth 5-year Plan, from 1981 to 1985.

During this period, many extractive industries were established in the domains of oil and phosphates and in prospecting for metals and rock salt. Many basic manufacturing industries, such as the iron and steel complex and of copper bars, were set up. Furthermore, many industries were expanded which had contributed to securing an increased self-sufficiency in the field of the food industry, while the other manufacturing industries were activated. These industries have been characterized by their ability to spur the industrial development which the country is witnessing and to achieve ideal benefits from the existing production potential. Many major raw materials have been processed which are needed by the local industry to boost the country's ability to depend on the materials, requirements and spare parts needed to insure the requirements of the various industrial activities, particularly in the domains of the cotton spinning and weaving industry and the mining industry. These industries have also contributed to diversifying the country's export sources. The plans which have been implemented also permitted increased production in the domains of electricity and generating stations as well as an expanded electrification of rural areas and villages and the guarantee of pure potable water for well over 90 percent of the country's citizenry.

[Written by] Dr 'Abd-al-Malik al-Akhras

Total Production Domain

The industrial and mining sector has preserved its relative average in the value of the total production achieved in the economic sectors. This ratio ranges from 31.9 percent in 1970 to 31.5 percent in 1983. This is a high ratio which shows the great relative importance which the industrial sector now occupies in the country's economy.

The value of the total production of producers amounted to 39,928,000,000 million Syrian pounds at current prices in 1983; this value totaled 3,280,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1970 and 23,617 million Syrian pounds in the base year of the Fifth 5-year Plan, that is, 1980. The average ratio of the annual growth of total production during the years of the 1980-1983 plan reached approximately 19.2 percent a year. This average exceeded the average growth achieved in the value of the total production of the industrial sectors at the level of the country, which amounted to 15 percent during this period thanks to the entry of numerous industrial projects in the phase of actual production. It was hoped that this sector would achieve greater growth averages. However, the drop in the crude oil prices and the decrease in the production of the oil refineries have clearly influenced the trends of the growth averages. The average decrease in the price of Syrian oil in the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 has been estimated at about 25 percent in comparison to the 1981 prices. The price of Syrian oil had achieved a considerable upward surge in 1980 and 1981 over 1979, and this surge was estimated at approximately 50 percent. The value of this decrease has been estimated at well over 2 billion Syrian pounds from that of 1981.

The state pursues the policy of subsidizing some basic food products, such as bread, wheat, sugar and vegetable oils, and of subsidizing oil derivatives and electric power, which the state offers at less than their real prices to alleviate the burden of price increases on the citizens. The industrial sector has mainly borne these subsidies.

Table 1 clarifies the development of the value of total production at the producers' current prices for the years 1970 and 1980-1983.

To know the volume of in-kind development in the industrial and mining sector, apart from the effects of changing prices, it might be appropriate at this point to review the development of the value of the previous indicators of the total production achieved at the fixed prices of the base year 1980, which equals 100, in its capacity as the base year of the Fifth 5-year Plan. Table 2 clarifies the fact that the trends which were achieved in increasing the average total production growth at current prices have appeared in greater clarity to indicate the real increase which has indeed been achieved in the volume of industrial production. The average growth in the industrial and mining sector, in the 1980-1983 period, reached 1.7 percent a year. This average surpassed the growth average achieved in the economic sectors by 4.3 points. The average of the total production of the economic sectors has been estimated at 7.4 percent a year. The following are the official statistics which corroborate this development achieved throughout the various years:

Public, Private Sectors Contribute to General Production

There can be no doubt that the streamlining of the efforts of the public and private sectors has had the greatest effect on achieving the growth averages which were achieved in the industrial and mining sector as part of the process of social transformation. In the course of this process, the state has given great attention to consolidating the public sector's industrial projects and to pooling all the potential available to the state so that this sector will pioneer the implementation of the state's general policy. The state also wants to encourage the private industrial sector to develop industrial products—and the country's private sector has long since distinguished itself by producing these products.

The rate of the contribution of the public industrial sector to the value of total production at 1980 fixed prices rose from 67 percent in 1970 to 76 percent in 1981. This contribution regressed slightly to 71 percent in 1983 because of the major drop in crude oil prices in 1982 and 1983. Furthermore, the contribution of the private industrial sector decreased from 33 percent in 1970 to 28 percent in 1983. The private industrial sector still has special importance in the processing industries domain, particularly in the manufacture of processed industrial products, various kinds of washing machines, spinning and weaving, readymade clothing, shoes and food and beverages.

The figures of Table 3--on the contribution of each of the public and private sectors to the value of total production at fixed prices--indicate that the average growth which has been achieved in the industrial public sector had reached 11.3 percent a year during the 1970-1983 period. This is a high rate which reflects the extent of the progress which is being achieved by this sector, despite some impediments which still hinder its continuing progress and development, particularly from the perspective of the reliance of this sector's manufacturing industries on imported industrial materials and the requirements of both the chemical and engineering industries and because of the subsidies which the state shoulders in the domain of the food industries and of oil and electrical products. The value of the production achieved in the public sector reached 23,180,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1983, after it had equalled 7,935,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1970. With regard to the private industrial sector, the value of the achieved production rose from 3,906,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1970 to 9,694,000,000 Syrian pounds in 1983, thus achieving a median average growth estimated at about 12.6 percent a year during this period. This rate is a little higher than that realized by the public industrial sector, because the [former] sector depends mainly on the diversification of its products, which accommodate a good deal of manpower. In 1983, the number of private sector workers reached 146,375 workers out of the total number of industrial workers, which is 242,062 workers.

Development of Private Sector Main Products

The statistics included in Table 4 point to the development of the production quantities actually achieved in the most important industrial products during

the period between 1970 and 1983. The following points are highlighted in the table:

There are many industries which have entered actual production and whose production was nil in 1970, such as the phosphate and fertilizer industries, as well as the tractors and rolled iron industries and the metallic pipe and medical product industries, whose production was very low in 1970.

The cable industry achieved a huge development in its production, which amounts to 3,352 percent. Furthermore, the refrigerator industry achieved a major development, which amounts to 959 percent. Furthermore, the milk, butter and canned food industry has also realized large production averages to cover the country's local consumption requirements.

There has been an increase in the volume of generated electric power of about 7 times its 1970 production.

Furthermore, the products of white oil derivatives have realized an increase of about 5 times.

However, concerning the remaining industries, the averages of their growth and of their material increases have continuously responded to the needs of the country's local consumption and have mitigated the burden of imports as well as left a surplus for export to insure more foreign currency, which is required for developing the domains of industrialization in the country.

Development of Each Sectors' Industrial Requirements

The development of the country's industry is contingent on the extent of the availability of the industrial production's requirements and on the proportion of these requirements in the cost of the realized total production value. In Table 5, we have included the value of the total production at the market price and the extent of the reliance of total production on the production requirements in both the public and private sectors at the fixed prices of 1980, which equals 100.

The following main points are shown in the table:

1. An increase in the rate of the costs of the industrial production requirements in general to the extent that this rate now constitutes about 70 percent of the realized total production of the industrial and mining sector.
2. The rate of the increase in the cost of production requirements in the private sector was within acceptable limits. This rate rose from 56 percent in 1970 to 60 percent in 1983.

Therefore, we observe that the phenomenon of the increasing cost of production requirements in both the public and private sectors requires a study of its causes and motives as well as its results for the future of industrial development in the country.

Cumulative Capital Investment in Public and Private Sectors

As of 1983, the capital invested in the industrial sector amounted to approximately 52 billion Syrian pounds, having been close to 2.7 billion in 1970 at current prices, having thus achieved a median growth average of 25.3 percent a year during this period.

Statistical statements point to the fact that the median average growth in the capital invested in the public industrial sector reached 25.9 percent a year. The value of this investment reached well over 46 billion Syrian pounds in 1983. However, in the private industrial sector, the median growth average was 12.5 percent a year. Investments reached approximately 6 billion Syrian pounds in 1983. Therefore, we observe that the public industrial sector acquired further investments through the implementation of the industrial projects included in the 5-year plans and that the average growth of its investments was double the average growth achieved in the private sector. This result indicates that the state is strongly dedicated to, and interested in, bolstering the domains of industrial investment in the public and private sectors equally.

Table 6 points to the development of the invested capital and its media growth average during the period between 1970 and 1980-1983 at current prices.

From the quick foregoing review it becomes clear to us that the country's industrial sector has begun to constitute one of the main bulwarks of the country's economy in light of the growth averages which have actually been achieved equally at either current or fixed prices.

There can be no doubt that the variety of the industrial production domains in the country and this production's effective contribution to insuring more of the local consumption requirements through the good growth averages, which it had actually achieved in the past period, requires taking a greater interest in the development domains latent in the various production activities in this sector. This is done for the purpose of activating these development domains so that they will contribute to promoting the progress and growth which the country is witnessing, particularly since we are on the verge of preparing the Sixth 5-year Plan. Perhaps the reports assessing the Fifth 5-year Plan in the domain of the industrial sector present a description of the positive achievements of this sector and also of the difficulties and hindrances which have obstructed its progress toward achievement of the production targets scheduled in the approved plan. We believe that studying and tackling these matters will contribute to raising the efficiency of performance and production as well as to realizing further self-development while relying on the potential and sources that are available locally. This potential and these sources have been employed in this sector to entrench its growth and to insure the continuation of this growth at a quick pace in the process of the comprehensive development which the Syrian Arab region is witnessing in all domains.

Table 1. Development of the Value of Total Production in the Industrial and Mining
Compared to the Total Production of the Economic Sectors for the
Years 1970 and 1980-1983 at Current Prices

In Million Syrian Pounds

	<u>Total Production</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Median Growth Average 1980-1983 (%)</u>
Value of Production in the Economic Sectors	10,278	82,732	105,697	115,582	126,852	126,852	15.3
Value of Production in the Industrial and Mining Sector	3,280	23,617	33,384	31,052	39,928	39,928	19.2
Relative Average of the Industrial and Mining Sector (%)	31.9	28.5	31.6	31.2	31.5	31.5	-

Table 2. Development of the Value of Overall Production in the Industrial and Mining Sector
 Compared to the Overall Production of the Economic Sectors
 for the Years 1970 and 1980-1983 at the Fixed Prices of 1980=100

In Million Syrian Pounds

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	Median Growth Average <u>1980-1983 (%)</u>
<u>Total Production</u>						
Value of Overall Production in the Economic Sectors	32,640	82,732	92,310	95,526	102,230	7.4
Value of Overall Production in the Industrial and Mining Sector	11,841	23,617	26,974	28,144	32,874	11.7
Relative Average of the Industrial and Mining Sector (%)	36.3	28.5	29.2	29.5	32.2	-

Table 3. Contribution of the Public and Private Sectors to Industrial Production
for the Years 1970 and 1980-1983 at the Fixed Prices of 1980=100

In Million Syrian Pounds

<u>Overall Production</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	Median Growth Average 1980-1983 (%)
Private Sector	7,935	16,831	20,372	20,387	23,180	11.3
Private Sector	3,906	6,786	6,602	7,757	9,694	12.6
Overall Production	11,841	23,617	26,974	28,144	32,874	11.7
Rate of Public Sector Contribution (%)	67	71	76	72	71	

Table 4. Development of the Most Important Main Products in the Industrial Sector in the Years 1970-1983

Name of Product	Unit	Production in the Year 1970	Production in the Year 1983	Development Rate (%)
Crude Oil	1,000,000 Tons	4.2	9.3	221
Phosphate	1,000 Tons	-	1,231	-
White Oil				
Derivatives Generated Electric Power	1,000,000 Tons	1.7	8.2	482
	1,000,000 Kilowatts/=hours	947	6,313	666
Wheat	1,000 Tons	367	1,079	294
Sugar	1,000 Tons	132	206	167
Pasteurized Milk	Tons	804	7,576	942
Butter	Tons	242	2,283	943
Canned Food	1,000 Tons	4.8	26	542
Processed Tobacco	1,000 Tons	4.2	13	309
Beer	1,000,000 Liters	2.5	8.1	324
Drinking Water	1,000,000 Cubic Meters	129.6	358	276
Cotton Thread	1,000 Tons	11	37	336
Cotton and Silk Textiles	1,000 Tons	12	25	208
Woolen Carpets	1,000 Square Meters	138.6	588	424
Medical Products	1,000,000 Syrian Pounds	2	25	1,250
Nitrate Fertilizer	1,000 Tons	-	113	-
Urea Ammonium Fertilizer	1,000 Tons	-	142	-
Phosphate Fertilizer	1,000 Tons	-	116	-
Alcohol	Tons	1,134	2,103	185
Tractors	Tractors	-	3,928	-
Roll Iron	1,000 Tons	-	841	-
Metal Pipes	1,000 Meters	-	7,917	-
Refrigerators	1,000 Refrigerators	14.7	141	959
Cables	Tons	412	13,813	3,352
Television Sets	Television sets	7,590	48,766	642
Machinery Glass	1,000 Tons	15.9	47	295
Cement	1,000 Tons	984	3,719	378

[Tables 5 and 6 not published]

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AFGHANISTAN

BAKHTAR REPORTS EXPOSURE OF ANTI-DRA NEW ZEALAND TIMES ARTICLE

LD041011 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, 3 March 0ANA-BAKHTAR--A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

We have witnessed many times that some publishers in the Western press print and other press organs reprint slanderous concoctions about Afghanistan. About the situation in the country, Afghan-Soviet relations, operations of the Afghan Armed Forces and Soviet troops helping them to protect the Afghan territory from inroads of counterrevolutionary gangs, as well as the life and property of civilians.

Late in January as the weekly, NEW ZEALAND TIMES published in Wellington, "treated" its readers to nearly a full page on Afghanistan, featuring four articles, a map and several photos. All the falsified materials were penned by a bank clerk Greg Hyam who had allegedly reached Kabul riding a camel under the cover of night with a terrorist gang of the Unis Khalis grouping. He visited cities and villages of northern provinces and eyewitnessed "brutal actions of the Afghan authorities and Soviet troops," bombardments of peaceful villages and napalm attacks.

Many readers of NEW ZEALAND TIMES paid attention to the fact that they had seen earlier the same photo in other publications. Those were pictures depicting atrocities committed by the Israeli soldiers against Lebanese innocent civilians as well as victims of the U.S. aggression in Vietnam. That was how Sabria and Shatila, where Tel Aviv invaders killed hundreds of innocent citizens, and the Vietnamese Village of Song My, where the entire population was burned down with napalm by U.S. cut-throats, appeared again on the "Afghan" page of the New Zealand newspaper. The editorial office conducted an investigation and front-paged on 10 February an article by Editor Box Fox entitled "We Were Victims of Hoax" with excuses to readers who were hoodwinked. Rascal Greg Hyam confessed that he had never been to Afghanistan and had seen a camel only in a zoo. He clipped snapshots from illustrated magazines and compiled materials for his "literary exercises," numerous anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet articles carried by various publications and fabricated, as a rule by such literary monsters as Greg Hyam.

Greg Hyam's canard has been exposed but it is important to point out to instigators of propaganda saboteur acts against the democratic republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union resort to the most dirty methods. In the (?usia) regularly supplies them with diverse concoctions, palming off snapshots made in Lebanon and Vietnam by trigger-happy U.S. and Israeli invaders to illustrate those fables. [Paragraph as received]

AFGHANISTAN

GUERRILLA LEADER INTERVIEWED ON COMBAT OPERATIONS

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Dec 84 p 9

Interview with Burhan-al-Din Rabbani, Afghan resistance leader: "Primary Danger to Us Is Starvation, Not Missiles; Enemy Has Totally Destroyed Villages, Which Have Become Uninhabited, To Force Mujahidun to Stop Fighting"

Text Burhan-al-Din Rabbani is a university professor and a soft-spoken, calm and peaceful-looking man.

He leads one of the strongest and best-organized Afghan resistance organizations. His counterpart is Jalal-al-Din Hikmat Yar, the young leader of the Islamic Party. The two branches are from the same Islamic organization and they command the main mujahidun striking force in Afghanistan.

Currently, the jihad holy war movement in Afghanistan is undergoing deep changes and delicate circumstances, the least of which are not the fierce battles of Panjshir which are being waged by Rabbani's forces under the command of Ahmad Mas'ud Shah. This interview has been quick and conceted, but not devoid of profound indications.

Question Now that 6 years have passed in your struggle against the communist regime in Kabul, with 5 of these 6 years spent in direct combat against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, what is the jihad's position in Afghanistan?

Answer We have now begun our 6th year of combat against the occupying Soviet forces. It is a bloody confrontation against a superpower that has committed aggression against us for the purpose of imposing on us a system which we reject and refuse because it is in conflict with our beliefs and religion. We have raised the banner of the jihad and we will cling to it until we achieve victory over the aggressor.

During the jihad, God has given us success with major victories which we had not expected. We have also encountered numerous and complex problems during these years. The Soviets have tried to liquidate the mujahidun bases, especially the major ones, but have failed.

Despite their use of sophisticated weapons and modern aircraft that have been developed to fight the war against the mujahidun and their use of numerous

munitions that are designed to produce the greatest possible impact against the mujahidun under the conditions of the Afghan environment, they have failed.

They have also tried to launch large-scale blitzkrieg offensives against our bases but have also failed.

They have, furthermore, used the method of acting within the ranks of the mujahidun to pit the factions against each other, using spies and agents for the purpose. They tried this on a large scale, especially under the administration of Andropov, who had been a former chief of the KGB. They did achieve some success in this regard but they have not been able to destroy us through this method. We have heard about problems and clashes between the mujahidun in some areas, clashes that have claimed the lives of some men. But those problems were never created by the mujahidun. They were created by the agents inserted by the enemy intelligence agencies.

Starvation, Not Missiles

This year has witnessed new developments in the means used by the enemy. This enemy has intensified his military operations and widened their scope. But I don't see in this enormous military effort a big threat to us because the mujahidun forces are able to slip away from the enemy's crushing blows and then inflict big losses on him in areas where he is weak.

Rather, the main danger threatening us is "starvation." The Soviets have launched the slogan of "from the countryside to the city." By this slogan, they mean a march on the countryside to destroy it completely, make life in it impossible and force the population to emigrate so that the mujahidun may find themselves without food or shelter and thus stop fighting.

This is the danger threatening us as a result of the enemy's policy of destroying the countryside and emptying it of its population. On the other hand, we have raised the slogan of "from the countryside to the city" and have launched ferocious attacks inside the cities, such as Kabul and Herat. We have focused this year on Kabul, the capital, where we have scored effective strikes against the enemy.

However, I believe that the existing danger does not come from the enemy's aircraft and missiles but rather from the starvation which may have a dangerous impact on the jihad.

Regarding our future plans, we are fully determined to persist on the path of the jihad, regardless of the obstacles, until God gives us triumph over the enemy. Our objective is clear and we will not swerve from it, namely to establish our Islamic state under the banner of "there is no god but God and Muhammad is God's prophet."

Political Action

/Question/ It is noticed that the Afghan jihad focuses on military action and that it hardly has any noteworthy political presence in the outside world. What is the reason for this shortcoming?

/Answer/ Many of the revolutions which emerged in this age and which were active and strong politically were adopted by one or several foreign countries. The path had been prepared for some of those revolutions at the informational level even before they fired a single bullet.

For example, I believe that POLISARIO does not exceed in size one of our battalions and POLISARIO's activity does not exceed in dimensions the activity of a single Afghan village in fighting the Soviets. But we find that some countries opened embassies for POLISARIO even before the movement requested them.

International and regional organizations are active in seeking recognition for POLISARIO as a state. Most revolutions find international forces that tend their affairs, whether in the East or in the West.

But the cause of our jihad is embraced by none other than the Muslim people and our asset is the Islamic popular asset. Governments have aided our struggle only for phased objectives that touch on the interests of this or that state.

The other reason for what you call our "political shortcoming" is our emphasis on the military action against the invading forces and our channeling all efforts toward this objective. This is why our jihad has imposed itself on both friend and enemy. Even international organizations have begun to vote in favor of our cause.

If we exerted our efforts for political action without any military action, our cause would be lost and political action would do us no good.

There is a negative factor that affects our political image, namely the presence of some elements that are considered pro-jihad elements but which actually have a negative impact on the jihad and which try to sneak into the positions of political leadership and represent the jihad before the outside world.

Moreover, the factors of division among our organizations impede the emergence of a single political leadership for the mujahidun. However, a number of the world's revolutionary movements have gone through periods without having unified political representation in the outside world and were able with the passage of time to overcome this shortcoming and to form their political entity years after they started.

Geneva Conference

/Question/ What is your comment on the outcome of the Geneva conference and why were you not represented in it?

/Answer/ We have always asserted that the Geneva conference will be nothing other than a waste of time. Those who attended the conference are not fundamental parties to the conflict. Pakistan does not represent the Afghan resistance and Karmal's government does not represent the Afghan people. The parties to this problem are the Afghan people, represented in the jihad movement, versus the aggressor, namely the Soviet Union. Unless these two main parties attend, any conference will be futile.

Under the circumstances in which the conference was held, we could not possibly attend because the Soviets' sole objective at present is to gain recognition for the legitimacy of Karmal's government.

Involving Sudan in the issue is a Soviet maneuver intended to portray Pakistan as a party in this issue.

However, the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan has had its automatic consequences for Pakistan because, first, the aggression against the Muslim people of Afghanistan is the start of an aggression against the Muslim people of Pakistan and, second, because the flow of millions of immigrants to Pakistan has caused it to be affected by the problem and to take part in the conference.

As for the offers made by the Soviets at the conference, they are not fit to form a basis for solving the problem. All that has been said about 90 percent of the problem being solved is no more than groundless Soviet propaganda. Frankly, we do not trust any covenant or agreement concluded with the Soviets.

The only solution available to us is to continue the jihad and to escalate the military pressure on the occupation forces until we make the enemy despair of achieving his goals.

We are not at all prepared to waste the mujahidun's combat spirit by focusing light and false hopes on these and similar conferences.

Question Is the Pakistani Government inclined to restrict the resistance, especially in the wake of the recent measures in Peshawar?

Answer The measures taken recently in Peshawar are organizational measures taken by the provincial government. We consider any restriction on the Afghan mujahidun harmful to the interest of the Pakistani and Afghan peoples and beneficial to the Soviet occupiers. The Islamic peoples' interest is a single interest that cannot be divided under any circumstances.

8494
CSO: 4604/22

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

REBELS INFILCT LOSSES ON SOVIET, KARMAL TROOPS--According to the Central News Unit, in a confrontation between Muslim revolutionaries and the government forces in (?Khatya) situated in Takhar Province, 4 tanks belonging to the government forces were destroyed and 15 soldiers were killed. Reports indicate that the confrontation lasted for 4 hours. Four government soldiers and a USSR soldier were captured and two of the revolutionaries were martyred. Also, in a series of operations carried out by the Muslim revolutionaries against the USSR and government forces, on 30 January a military post in the Governorate of (?Zamkani) situated in Paktia Province was destroyed and 37 USSR and government soldiers of Afghanistan were killed. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 85 LD]

CSO: 4640/428

BANGLADESH

AMNESTY PERIOD FOR CHITTAGONG REBELS EXTENDED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

Text The time limit for the general amnesty for the "misguided" persons of the Chittagong Hill Tracts has further been extended till April 25 next, it was officially announced in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

A Home Ministry announcement said the Government took the decision to this effect to facilitate the "misguided" people to surrender and enjoy the facilities offered for their socio-economic rehabilitation.

The Government expressed the hope that the "misguided" people would take advantage of the opportunity of general amnesty to lead a normal and peaceful life and come forward to contribute towards the socio-economic activities of the country including the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, at a public meeting at Khagrasaree in October 1983 had declared general amnesty for the "misguided" people to surrender by February 26, 1984. Later the time limit was extended for two months ending April 26 last year when the leaders of the Hill Tracts area met the President and pleaded for extension.

With the declaration of amnesty a large number of the "misguided" people had surrendered to the security forces and allout efforts continued to go ahead for their rehabilitation in the social and economic fields.

It is learnt the announcement said more such people have prepared themselves to surrender. But they could not avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the Government as the time limit for the amnesty has expired.

In view of the circumstances, the Government has extended the time limit up to April 25 next to enable more members to take advantage of the amnesty.

CSO: 5650/0073

IRAN

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH USSR TO EXPAND

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 85 p 21

[Text] Iran and the USSR announced their readiness to revitalize and activate the economic committee between the two countries. It is expected that following the ratification of the Iran-USSR economic agreement by the Majlis, the joint economic committee of the two countries will begin its work. The economic cooperation agreement between the two countries was signed in 1974, which will be offered to the Majlis for study and ratification after it is conformed to the present conditions.

In an interview concerning this issue, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the economic director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: Following the expression of willingness and readiness by the government of the USSR in regards to activating the joint economic committee between the two countries, after the necessary studies, the affirmative view of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regards to activating this committee was announced to the Soviet authorities.

He said: Iran's agreement to activate the joint economic committee was announced to the authorities of that country two days ago in a meeting with the Soviet ambassador.

The economic director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: Naturally, the two countries will hold preliminary negotiations concerning the reactivation of the committee in the future and then a meeting of the joint committee at the ministerial level will be held.

In regards to the history of the Iran-Soviet joint committee, he said: This committee was formed in 1974, that is, 10 years ago, with the signing of an economic cooperation agreement between the two countries and, like other joint committees that Iran

participated in with many countries in the world, it was accredited after being ratified by the Majlis at the time.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, this committee was not active. However, legally, as long as these agreements are not voided by the Majlis, they will remain valid.

He added: Our policy since the victory of the Islamic revolution has been not to activate such joint committees with those countries with which we are not interested in expanding economic relations, but in the case of certain countries with which the continuation of relations is in the interest of both parties, the activities of the committees have been renewed.

Hence, after reexamining the agreements, they are made to conform to the requirements of the time and the needs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other country and are then sent to the Majlis for examination and ratification.

In conclusion, he said: The joint Iran-USSR committee will supervise commercial, technical, economic and scientific relations between the two countries.

It should be pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran at the present enjoys economic cooperation with the Soviet Union in the areas of energy, power plants, a gas pipeline, railroads, ground and sea transportation, and silo construction.

10,000
CSO: 4640/374

IRAN

MOSCOW RADIO COMMENTS ON IRAN'S BUDGET, NEED TO END WAR

NC271236 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1800 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The Majlis recently approved Iran's budget for 1364 [year ending 20 March 1986]. Our commentator, Igor Sheftunov, writes: Iran's new budget, like the past four budgets, was compiled by taking into consideration the continuing war with Iraq. This time too about one-third of the total budget has been earmarked for war expenditures. This complicates the country's economic situation and results in a decrease in allocations for progress. According to IRNA reports, the ministers of agriculture, of energy, and of roads announced during the debates on the budget that the allocations to their ministries were insufficient for essential projects.

The war is also harming the revenue for the Iranian budget. As is known, the basis for the budget lies in the oil sales. However, in view of the continuing war this revenue is continuously threatened. This year the war led to several steep falls in Iran's oil exports and, as a result, to an instability in the country's revenue. Ending the meaningless Iran-Iraq fratricide will not only free Iran from unproductive military expenditures, but will also insure stability of the country's revenue. However, this outlook is in no way favored by the imperialist monopolies, primarily U.S. monopolies. As stated some time ago in NEWSWEEK by oil analyst (David Foley) ending the Iran-Iraq war will negatively affect the positions of Western monopolies that rule the imperialist oil market. These monopolies take advantage of this conflict to limit oil exports from the conflicting sides, to reduce oil prices, to pocket additional profits by increasing insurance costs, and to harm the unity of OPEC and its role in the oil trade.

During their debates on the new Iranian budget, the Majlis deputies stressed the need to reduce Iran's dependence on oil revenue. They pointed out the need to create mother industries in Iran which will become a secure basis for the independent progress of the country's economy as a whole. However, the imperialist countries are doing their best to obstruct this. Both in the past and in the present their efforts have been to establish joint ventures and assembly lines that depend on Western monopolies in Iran.

It was in the very first year after the 11 February revolution that Iran's social circles became overtly aware of what the result of this policy can be. In an effort to inflict pressure on the Islamic Republic's policy, the U.S. imperialists and their allies declared an economic siege after the 11 February

revolution. Consequently, many joint ventures lie idle, reducing the budget. However, the imperialists were unable to stifle the newly-established republic. The socialist countries assisted Iran in the construction of modern national units for steel and other major industries and this assistance continues. This helped Iran to resist the pressures of Western monopolies. These units and factories not only operated successfully during the siege, but also increased their output and favorably affected the country's financial situation. Also, the expansion of equal and mutually beneficial commercial relations between Iran and the socialist countries, including the signing of transit agreements with its neighbor, the Soviet Union, helped Iran to resist the imperialist countries' siege.

In its efforts to insure its economic independence and to free itself from dependence on imperialist monopolies, Iran can, as in the past, count on the assistance of the socialist world.

CSO: 4640/427

IRAN

PAPER REVIEWS OPEC ACTIVITIES IN WORLD MARKET

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 21 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] In the past few years, that is, since the beginning of the decade of the 1980s, the world oil market has faced many changes and at times the price of oil has also undergone some changes. On the whole, since the time when OPEC, for various reasons including the disruptive actions of some of the members, lost its previous unity in determining oil policies and the price of oil to some extent, every once in a while, through the conspiracies of the oil-devourers and large oil companies, it has been forced to make changes in its decisions. If we look at the history of OPEC activities, we see that in the 1970-1980 decade, when OPEC, by gradually stopping the large oil companies, appeared as the main producer of crude oil in the world oil market, due to the characteristics of the market at the time and the increase in demand over supply, it was able to act as the only price determiner in the oil market. In other words, the prices set by OPEC set the standard for the market. But in the 1980s, the above-mentioned situation changed, and OPEC fell mainly under the pressure of the market and the supply and demand situation. In other words, the OPEC member producers who do not feel obliged to observe the official oil prices, given the conditions of the market (along with political issues), take the first step with regard to prices and then force OPEC to also decrease its oil prices.

After the decrease in the price of OPEC oil in March 1983, 1984, from the very start, also became a year for the conspiracies of the multinational oil companies to strike a blow

against OPEC through the reduction of the price of oil. In this issue, we follow up the way these conspiracies were implemented.

Since the March conference in London, when OPEC chose the daily production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels, OPEC had to pressure the market, because if at one time for certain reasons the market demand would grow, considering the restrictions on production as well as the high cost of oil production in non-OPEC producing countries, only OPEC could provide the needs of the market. Hence, the international oil companies felt a need to confront this OPEC decision.

On the other hand was the excessive greediness of the consumers and oil devourers to decrease the OPEC oil price as much as possible, because if the oil market procures its demand through OPEC, the OPEC crude oil base price (\$29) will increase. There are two ways to solve this problem: first, for the non-OPEC producers to increase production--with the exception of the Soviet Union, which is able to increase its oil production somewhat, other producers could not play a role in this area-- and, second, for the grounds for the reduction in the price of oil to be prepared for some of the OPEC producers to increase production because of their severe currency requirements and for some of the other puppets in OPEC to support and follow the decrease in the price of oil.

Given this viewpoint of the West, the second solution was determined to be more practical and logical.

Since the second quarter of 1984, certain instabilities occurred in the price of oil on the oil market. That is, for various reasons, including increased production by some members, the signing of bartering contracts, the granting of discounts to customers and oil companies with whom they have contracts, and the sale of products, the official OPEC price was for all practical purposes reduced.

Therefore, at times, the price of oil in the non-contractual market was about \$2.5 per barrel less than the official OPEC price.

In mid-October 1984, first Norway and then England, the two producers of North Sea oil, declared a decrease of between \$1.25 and \$1.35 per barrel in the cost of their exported oil. This decision, considering the chaotic economic condition of England, as a result of the miner's strike and the decline in the comparative value of the British pound, shows the depth of the calculated conspiracy of the oppressive world against OPEC. Of course, before the decision of the two above-mentioned producers, certain instabilities occurred indirectly in the OPEC official

base price of crude oil, because two members of OPEC, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, indirectly reduced the price of their oil. This reduction for the former came in the form of a change in the percentage of the sale of various kinds of crude oil, and for the second, granting discounts.

The reduction in the price of the oil of Norway and England resulted in Nigeria, which also has oil similar to North Sea oil, reducing its official price by \$2 per barrel. Then, in late October, in a consultative session, OPEC decided to reduce its ceiling by 1.5 million barrels and brought it down to 16 million barrels per day.

We believe that OPEC could and should have reduced its production more than it did. The decrease of about 3 million barrels per day would disturb the balance of supply and demand, and considering the coming of the cold season, it would be even more effective than the official price in raising the prices on the open market.

In this situation, the OPEC members must be more concerned for this only organization of the Third World and at least for a period of time place the interests of OPEC over their personal interests. OPEC members must know that the oil-consuming countries, particularly the European industrial countries, constantly pressure the United States for the uncontrolled increase in the value of the dollar against other accredited currencies and this colonializing superpower is trying to compensate for this pressure through reducing the price of oil. It should be pointed out that in the course of the reduction in the price of oil by the non-OPEC members, the Soviet Union also, from the beginning of the price war, decreased its official oil price in order to help strike a blow against OPEC.

In the course of the price decreases, the issue of solving the price differences between the various kinds of crude oil of some of the OPEC members. This difference in price caused the demand for heavy crude oil to increase and the price to rise. Also, the demand for very light crude oil declined and the price became unstable. In this connection, and concerning studying the market situation and the violations of some of the members in regards to ratifications of the organization, in its 72nd session in December 1984, in the course of two rounds of discussions, OPEC decided, in regards to the relative balance of price differences, to implement a system for the control of the production and sale of oil for all its members, to be enforced by an OPEC committee.

It is still too early to examine the gains and results of this OPEC decision. However, it can be said that even speaking of the implementation of such a decision has increased the price of oil on the non-contractual market.

In any case, besides all the ratifications and decisions, the factor that can make OPEC a powerful cartel in the world oil market as in the past is for all its members to respect the current laws of the organization and try to make maximum use of this valuable and perishable substance. The achievement of this goal requires coming out from under the colonialist umbrella of the West, protection of the interests of the oppressed nations of the OPEC countries, unity and harmony among all the members and giving preference to OPEC interests over personal ones. It is hoped that with the OPEC actions in the oil market, the predictions of most Western oil analysts will be futile concerning the decline in the price of oil in 1985.

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CSO: 4640/374

IRAN

RAFSANJANI URGES FOUNDATION INVOLVEMENT IN SOME ECONOMIC ISSUES

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 23 Jan 85 pp 15

[Text] The heads and supervisors of the provincial centers of the Foundation for the Oppressed, along with a group of the experts of the Plan and Budget Organization, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In this meeting, the speaker of the Majlis said in a detailed speech:

In regulating the affairs of the Foundation for the Oppressed, many individuals work hard to complete this important and necessary task by making proper use of the existing resources of the Foundation and in conformity with the realistic expectations of the leader of the revolution. Naturally, one of the initiatives of the Islamic revolution was to take back the plundered property of the people from the usurpers of the regime and centralize it in an organization. Although not all the property was centralized in the Foundation and some of it is at the disposal of other foundations and ministries, the intentions of the people are concentrated in the Foundation for the Oppressed.

Some thought that the Foundation for the Oppressed had been established to distribute the existing property immediately among the oppressed and, therefore, had some hasty expectations, wanting land, money, factories and whatever else to be given to the people. Such expectations arose because of the fact that the people did not have the necessary knowledge of the work of the Foundation and the mass media did not offer sufficient explanations in this regard. When the property and resources of the Foundation for the Oppressed were in the hands of the well-to-do, on the whole, it relied on the banks and ministries and was given many concessions and subsidies by the government. For instance, if the property was land, they were granted concessions to dig wells and procure the necessary tools for production and procure loans for factories. Therefore, all was based on the misuse of government resources. Until some time before the victory of the revolution, when the owners of these properties felt danger and thought of ways to drain the collateral of this

property, they either mortgaged it and took loans or created problems in places where government involvement would become necessary, and where they incurred a great deal of debt for anyone who would take over such property.

Mr Hashemi said: The important point is that these plunderers thought this was an island of stability. They had turned a great deal of money into valuable items, factories and real estate. If we evaluate the actions in the first year of the revolution in taking such property from the well-to-do, we can see that a great task was accomplished.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: Now, there are about 2,500 files at the disposal of the Foundation for the Oppressed, some of which involve confiscation and some others those about which no decisions have been made and which are being held. A great deal of these resources have been retrieved and are at the disposal of the Shahid Foundation, the Ministry of Commerce and other organizations. In the first year, about 70-80 percent of the industries of the country were taken from the usurpers. Some of these industries and factories were retrieved from the allies of the regime through the decisive role of the Revolution Council and some through the courts. He said:

The first step, which was to take back some of the people's rights, was taken in the first year of the revolution. However, the second step taken has been to protect this property during the revolution. As far as we know, the supervisors, managers, workers and all the operators of this Foundation have tried to protect the people's property. A great deal of the resources were identified and utilized and, of course, they have to be coordinated in order for these resources to be of maximum use for the people. In my opinion, the officials of the Foundation must take maximum advantage of the good work that has been done so far, lest the people say that they took the property from the enemies of the people, but were unable to manage it. If this happens, there are two potential harms, one is to the financial situation and another is to the prestige of the revolution. The people might say, when such things as the factories were managed by the supporters of the tyrant, they were profitable, but since they have been confiscated, they are no longer profitable.

Then, pointing out that the creation of large monopolistic industrial units in the style of the United States and European countries is not what we wish, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The industrial and economic world of today requires the existence of large administrative units with strong management. For instance, an organization such as (Kerup) possesses great industrial power, which can implement large projects in the world. We do not want the industrial units which follow the rule of capital and are in line with economic domination to manage our affairs. On the

other hand, we do not want everything to be in the hands of the government or under government rule. It is here that the duty of the Foundation for the Oppressed becomes clear.

The speaker of the Majlis said: With precise planning and understanding of the needs, the Foundation must fill the void. You can accomplish great economic movements and plan large projects. Many tasks should not be carried out by the government. On the other hand, large amounts of capital must not be placed at the disposal of the private sector to become a leverage against the government. Such tasks are the responsibility of the Foundation for the Oppressed, which, by understanding the problems, must identify which parts of the country have the most shortages. For instance, in the area of road building or providing the cement deficit in the country, the Foundation for the Oppressed must make great strides to put sufficient improved seeds at the disposal of the people. In the same vein, it must work in the area of housing and construction. Now, the Foundation for the Oppressed is a great economic center under the leadership of the revolution and in coordination with the government. Therefore, if it wants to place these resources at the disposal of the people, it can accomplish great tasks. When the Foundation began its work, it had many debts and the banks also are asking for repayment of the many debts owed them on the basis of prior calculations. But today, the banks and the Foundation for the Oppressed are the same. The banks must not treat the Foundation as they would the private sector. The Foundation has a great deal of property with the banks. The bank shares of the Foundation, which were confiscated in accordance with the rulings of the Revolution Council and were given to the banks, must be calculated in some manner and be counted as partial payment of the debts of the Foundation, because these all belong to the oppressed and they should not be weakened. It is the duty of the banks, the government and other organizations to strengthen the Foundation, while the Foundation must also identify the problems. I believe that with the movement it has started, the Foundation will succeed in this effort.

Then, pointing out that the Foundation is able to create strike markets needed by the people in appropriate seasons in order to help solve the existing problems of distribution and inflation, the speaker of the Majlis said: All I have said was said as examples. But the essence of what I have to say is that you will make the best use of your power and resources through identifying the needs and through precise calculations. My decisive proposal to the management of the Foundation is that you speak with the people more, because the people are uninformed about the programs, the work and the problems of the Foundation. You public relations offices must be in constant contact with the Voice and Vision and other media to explain to the people the problems and issues of the supervisors and managers of the

Foundation. You must be careful, for there are individuals who want to ruin the name of the Foundation. Many of those whose property was confiscated might, through spreading rumors, show the people that the Foundation has not accomplished anything and has not been able to manage the property of the oppressed. The property of the Foundation must not go the way of the religious endowments in the previous regime, when there was much injustice and misuse. Continue working with empathy and be assured that the reputation of the people, the revolution and yourselves depends on your good work. You have many enemies. We have seen clearly that anyone who has been put in charge of the Foundation in the course of this period has been attacked by the enemy in various ways. They tried to weaken him through speeches, writing, and creating problems and disruptions and to get on his nerves, so that he would be unable to continue his work. Try and, God willing, you will succeed and the Majlis will eliminate your legal needs as much as possible.

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CSO: 4640/373

IRAN

RAFSANJANI URGES IRP TO HEED KHOMEYNI'S ORDERS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 26 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] On Thursday afternoon, a group of the representative sisters of the Islamic Republican Party of Tehran Province and a group of the members and supporters of the Arak branch of the IRP met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis.

In this meeting, after the recitation of verses from the Koran and the presentation of a report, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a detailed speech: More than anything else, the IRP is essentially a political and cultural institution. One of the most basic responsibilities of the individuals gathered in this Party is that in connection with the regions and the current affairs of the Party, they must try to understand the cultural issues of their environment and the world and the aims of this ideology for which the Party has been created and to spread it in the society. Whenever there is need in the society to take particular political and cultural positions, organized and trained individuals in the Party must rapidly take the necessary positions and guide others. It is one of the proven facts in a society that if a person wants to have particular training along with a spirit of cooperation and discipline, he can find it in sound parties.

Another issue, which is one of the aims and important results, is that a person can gain social spirit in the Party and avoid isolationism, individualism, a dictatorial spirit and being obstinate in what he says. Such problems prevent a person from belonging to an organization or a party.

He also said that in some situations, the necessity for the existence of a party might not be felt. The height of the necessity of a party is felt in a society when the opposing currents are active and engaging in conspiratorial acts. However, in a society in which an ideology governs and the situation is calm, people do not pay attention to spending their time in party centers and may not realize very well why a party

exists. When the opposing forces engage in conspiracies and create problems, another political institution other than the government must confront them and defend the truth. The government cannot and must not always interfere in every issue, because the government has a larger spectrum and is responsible towards individuals and people. Even though it is a government of a party, its activities, services and positions must be more expansive than those of a party.

Continuing his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We have not had a party history in a sound Islamic environment as a model. The governments of 'Ali and the Prophet have been recorded in history. But nothing has been recorded about a party such as the IRP, the Islamic Feda'is, or other parties in the history of the dawn of Islam or during the time of the infallible imams. Of course, his holiness 'Ali and the movements which supported him and the Prophet and which still continue were movements that opposed deviations and defended the downtrodden and the oppressed. This is apparent in their statements and positions. In history, the Omayyads, capitalists and nobility are sometimes described as the Omayyad Party and the supporters of 'Ali were known as Shi'ites and sometimes as a party. But, parties in their present form did not exist. In our time, considering that our Constitution has determined the presence of several parties and, on the other hand, the complexity of living conditions and the vastness of the society require those forces who have a common, singular goal to somehow unite and stand against the problems that threaten the regime, early in the revolution, every couple of persons raised a sign or published a newspaper or a magazine and engaged in adventurism. The liberals, communists and hypocrites united and all attacked the IRP as a ruling monopolizing party; but, at that time, the IRP was not the governing party and most of the ministers and governors general and half the Revolution Council belonged to the other side. Only the Hezbollah people, and such groups as the committees, Guards Corps, revolution courts, and clergy were interested in the IRP. The reason was that the people and true supporters of the Islamic revolution clearly felt the need for the party and that if the party were not on the scene, on the political scene, at that time, there truly would be no major force against them and the field would remain empty for them.

Pointing out that with the defeat of the counterrevolutionaries, the stabilization of the regime and the lessening of the necessity for presence on the social scene, attention might not be paid to the need for organizations, but whenever there is a threat, this need will be created again, the speaker of the Majlis said: When the blow was inflicted on the headquarters of the party and the officials of the government, the people themselves felt the need and everyone sensed that the organization could be more deeply rooted. The organization must

not be indifferent towards global events either. The events of Lebanon and the Philippines, the recent famine in Ethiopia and the kidnappings by Israelis with the cooperation of Sudan must be discussed and analyzed in the party. The members of the party must include discussions and analyses in their political and cultural work. If a party has such activities in a society, that society will grow and then the people can never be deceived, and whenever there is need to take a position, a single view will exist. On the other hand, domestic issues, such as the economic, political and cultural issues, are discussed in the society, and the Party, with its continuous analyses, discussions and views, can be a constant classroom for training the people and to raise the level of awareness and understanding of all the people.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: During this period, the people have grown a great deal, but since growth takes place gradually, it can not be readily seen. You cannot compare the people of six years ago to the people of today. Party members can increase and deepen the growth of the society several-fold. If some issues in the society are dealt with on a superficial level, the party must analyze those issues deeply and from the root and the organization has the duty to provide intellectual and political food for its members. Here, it must be said that there is no difference between men and women participating in the party. However, the women have been away from the society for some time, but they must participate in the party more. For instance, a mother who is responsible for her offspring and wants to train this offspring for the future, for tomorrow's generation, must be more active in the party and gain more information in order for our mothers to be able to train the future generation well and to give them direction.

The speaker of the Majlis then added: It is not necessary for everything that exists now to have existed during the time of the Prophet. For instance, during the time of the Prophet, there were no mosques in their present form and there was no army in its present form. Whenever there was a war, the people gathered together and everyone was responsible for his expenses and the procurement of horses, swords and the means for war. And there were no police at the time either. Those times were not as complex, and such huge ministries did not exist. Rather, life was much simpler than it is today. These are all civil issues and the society must regulate them. Of course, our actions must not be contrary to those of the Prophet and should not have been prohibited by him.

Another issue is that the IRP differs from the European parties, such as the British Labor Party and the French Socialist Party. The members of these parties do not quite have a right to vote. But in the IRP, at most, the members can be provided with analyses and explanations and the correct issue can be pointed

out to them [as published]. If the members are not satisfied, they cannot be forced. For instance, we cannot say to the members of the Party who are also representatives that they must give so many votes; they have a choice. On the level of the Islamic society also, two rival Muslim parties do not have the right to slander, attack, lie and defame each other. One party cannot investigate the affairs of another party. Any action contrary to Islamic morality is prohibited in this connection. One of the important aspects of a party is obedience to the leader. Any command which is issued by the leader must be obeyed by the party, and the party must obey the laws. Therefore, the standards for a party in the Islamic Republic are quite different from those of other places. No one in a party has the right to sacrifice the interests of the revolution for his own interests. Here, there is a sort of Islamic compassionate cooperation coupled with good intentions and sincerity. For instance, when the imam said that no party member should be in the armed forces, many of the members, preserving their interest in the party or the army and the armed forces, resigned and began to work where they had chosen to serve.

Then, addressing the members of the Party, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: You must be pioneers in every good deed. Never make the Party an instrument of your personal interests. The Party must not be a stepping stone for your material progress, but a ladder for spiritual advancement. The Party is a tool for service, not a means to gain interests. The position of the Party has frequently been announced; this Party will always be in the service of Islam. But, the Party pays attention to further divisions of the masses of the people and the oppressed class. This does not mean that we oppose people who are not oppressed but are good serving human beings. We are not like a socialist or communist party. At the dawn of Islam, there was Khadijeh, who was wealthy, and there was also Fezzeh, who had nothing, and both were wives of the Prophet. We evaluate individuals with humane and Islamic values. But we are in a shah-struck society, in which most people are oppressed and whose rights have been violated by a handful of hoarding capitalists. Therefore, for a period of time, we need to defend the oppressed and the slogan of support for them must be at the top of our agenda. The Party must support the oppressed in slogan and action in order to retrieve their rights and distribute the wealth equitably among them, and for every stratum to receive equal to their efforts and the value of the work they offer. Therefore, now, at present, for some time, it is necessary to have the slogan of support for the oppressed, and on the global level as well, support for the oppressed and opposition to global oppression.

Then, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that the fact that up to now, wherever Israel would step it would defeat and would not retreat from that place, except for the war with Egypt, after which it

retreated a little bit, but it defeated the Egyptians at the negotiation table, and said: It was only the revolutionary Muslims of Lebanon who expelled Israel. They gave no concessions, did not even agree to talk or negotiate with Israel, did not allow others to talk and prevented other parties from interfering. The Party must pay attention and study this and similar issues. On the other hand, the Party must be present in working and rural assemblies and areas and give them political, moral and cultural training. The Party must be a pioneer in every good deed, devoid of unacceptable desires, and able to serve the revolution. And whenever the revolution requires blood, they should not hesitate to grant it.

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CSO: 4640/373

IRAN

HOSEYN MUSAVI SAID TO BE ATTENDING '10-DAY DAWN' CEREMONIES

Paris NEHZAT in Persian 7 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

Paris NEHZAT in Persian; Weekly organ of the Iran National Resistance Movement

Text After several weeks of inactivity and quietude, Khomeyni once more appeared on the balcony of his Jamaran residence on February 3d. President Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imams, members of the Assembly of Experts and foreign guests participating in the ceremonies of the "10-days of Dawn" were all present to hear his speech. In the audience there also was an individual which makes one wonder where or to which group of attending people he belonged. He is neither a member of the Assembly of Experts nor a Friday imam. Furthermore, he can hardly be included in the category of foreign guests since in the Islamic regime he can truly be considered one of the most native of Iranians. He is Hoseyn Musavi, the head of the Islamic Amal terrorist group in Lebanon. He is the person who was responsible for many of the explosions and terrorist acts in Beirut such as the explosions at the American and French military installations, the explosion in one of the buildings of the American Embassy in Beirut, the murder of the president of the American University in Beirut and so forth.

This gives one a clue as to the kind of guests that made up the majority attending the "10-days of Dawn" ceremonies who were addressed by Khomeyni. Although Khomeyni began his speech by reproaching satanic temptations, the essence of this speech was nothing more than a temptation in itself. He said: "If such gatherings only end up with discussions and a communique, there will never be any results. The Holy Koran says kill the enemies of Islam...." The leader of the Islamic revolution sees monotheism and gnosticism manifested in the battlefronts where his own satanic temptations have brought hundreds of thousands of Muslim youths face-to-face to create such carnage as to remind one of the Mongols or the Arab invasions and their man-to-man battles and carnage.

Gnosticism and monotheism have their centers in the trenches of the battlefronts and Khomeyni invited the guests of the "10-days of Dawn" ceremonies to visit the fronts and witness these manifestations--this is nothing but violence,

death, and the deterioration of morality. Khomeyni's guards violate the rights of these mobilized youth at the war fronts--they take the wounded privates or the officers to field hospitals only when the guards issue permits. Financial corruption is so rampant and takes place on such a large scale at the war fronts that many of the procurement officials in the army have become very significant and wealthy individuals in a matter of four years in the false, corrupt and cheating republic of Khomeyni.

For instance, when Khomeyni wants to condemn terrorism, his very satanic self comes to the fore and says: "Those who consider Iran a supporter of terrorism are not telling the truth." Then, immediately while addressing the guests of the "10-days of Dawn" he states: "In order to protect yourself from danger, sit still at home and continue your attacks until you become victorious." This kind of assault and panic atmosphere in the eyes of the Jamaran's satan is done for a good reason: "Iran has its reason and goes ahead with the support of the Koran...."

Nevertheless, the supporters of Khomeyni's reasoning at the gathering on Sunday, the 3d of February in Jamaran are a bunch of hirelings and mercenaries. The Ministry of Islamic Guidance, with a secret budget of \$350 million, and the International Movement of the Guards Corps, in addition to Hoseyn Musavi, have other individuals such as Caliph Nahari, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mosharaf and Kamani in their employment. These people are busy carrying out their assaults and inroads from India, Malaysia and the Philippines. According to Khomeyni, the instigation of some mercenary adventurers designed to create an insecure and unsafe atmosphere in Islamic countries is the very reason for his line of thought. A kind of reason or an excuse (to put it more correctly) which only Khomeyni can extract from the Holy Koran. He wants an Islam of fire, blood, and insecurity. By buying the services of some mercenaries of the region who used to be bribed by Saudi Arabian princes, Gamal Abdol Nasser, Sadat or Yaser Arafat or even George Habash, he tries to disseminate and expand his false reasonings--little does he know that these notorious individuals have lost all their credibility and that no amount of reasoning can restore their reputation.

12719
CSO: 4640/385

IRAN

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO DEAL DECISIVELY WITH VIOLATORS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Ahvaz: KEYHAN reporter--Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi a member of the supreme judicial council in an interview with reporters of the mass media in Ahvaz emphasized the need for decisive dealing by the judges in investigating violators. Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi in this interview referred to his own visits to the war fronts and meetings with combatants and said: "In the meetings with these beloved ones they indicated that they were willing to bear all the difficulties for defending Islam and sincerely sacrifice their lives for the execution of Islamic order, but upon returning to their own cities they are not able to tolerate some actions which are reminders of the previous regime like the injustice and cruelty of some tradesmen." Mir Mohammadi added: "The combatants have asked the nation's judicial officials to deal decisively with these matters."

During this interview, Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi emphasized the decisiveness of the judges in dealing with any offender from any side and said: "In my meetings with the dear combatants I reminded them that whoever commits an offense will be dealt with decisively and must be punished according to Islamic order." Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi, also emphasized the serious fight against immodesty and corruption in society and said: "In case some people try to blemish public chastity, permission has been given to the courts to investigate these cases immediately and punish the guilty. These acts are contradictory to Islamic orders and it is the demand of our beloved combatants at the war fronts that the violations be stopped."

Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi, a member of the country's supreme judicial council in emphasizing the execution of the retribution bill said: "In the courts of the Islamic Republic retaliation is administered. Retaliation is not only administered in cases of murder but also for dismemberment."

Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi at the conclusion of this interview referred to the formation of the international seminar for judgement in Islam and indicated that committees are already in Tehran and Qom doing research and studies and said: "God willing, when these committees finish their work we will extend an official invitation to the world's specialists and attorneys in order to explain the luminous orders of Islam to foreigners."

Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi a member of the supreme judicial council had a meeting with the Sha'r magistrates, judges, public prosecutor's assistants, and inspectors of the ministry of justice of Khuzestan in order to get acquainted with and study the judicial questions of Khuzestan Province. In this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shafi'i, the Sha'r magistrate and director of the justice department of Khuzestan presented a report about the judicial problems of this province.

Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi in explaining the specifics and the importance of judgement from an Islamic point of view and expressed his appreciation for the continuous hardwork of the judicial authorities of Khuzestan. After studying the judicial problems of Khuzestan Province, Ayatollah Mir Mohammadi returned to Tehran yesterday afternoon.

9815
CSO: 4640/317

IRAN

SEMINAR ON 'WOMAN'S POSITION IN ISLAM' ISSUES RESOLUTION

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] The seminar on woman's position in Islam and her role in the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, which was held in Tehran's Tawhid Center for three days simultaneous with the auspicious "10-days of Dawn" of the Islamic revolution and the death of the great lady of Islam, Fatima Zahra [the daughter of the prophet Mohammad], may God's blessings be upon her, ended yesterday afternoon with a speech by sister Behroozi, representative of the people of Tehran in the Islamic parliament, with the issuing of a resolution.

According to IRNA, Mrs Behroozi cited examples from the innocent prophetic traditions on women and commented on some verses from the Holy Koran regarding the social position and rank of women in the Islamic system. She emphasized that today's woman should be an exemplary and illustrative instance of Islamic values.

At the end of this seminar, a resolution with 10 articles was read which was met with unanimous and emphatic support from the audience. In addition to a necessary emphasis on fundamental Islamic values in the individual, family or social life on the part of women and using as an exemplary model the great lady Fatima Zahra (may God's blessings be upon her) in all aspects of life, the participants in this seminar considered it their duty to protect and defend the Islamic revolution against any mischief or conspiracy. The sisters participating in this seminar acknowledged the significance of the sixth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and asked all the relevant organs, particularly the Islamic Majlis and the judicial authorities, to take proper measures to establish appropriate Islamic rules and regulations and to delineate the limits of freedom, corruption and obscene acts.

In another part of this resolution it says: Our Islamic revolution is a revolution of values and for a Muslim woman today the most fundamental value is the matter of protection of the veil. Therefore, in order to defend this stronghold of God and destroy all manifestations of blasphemy and discord, we will fight with all our might and request the positive cooperation of all responsible authorities in this regard.

We condemn any political move which is being used as a ploy by the enemies of Islam to eliminate the veil and thus inflict a blow to the Islamic revolution. We urgently request the cooperation of all the educational and guidance centers of the country in holding seminars, meetings, and similar gatherings in various locations in order to eradicate such plots. We also urge the cooperation of these official centers in paying close attention to the matter of long-term planning for sensitive institutions such as schools, universities or other similar places which girls and women attend.

The participants also emphasized: In order to safeguard all Islamic mores and prevent corruption and prostitution, we urge all the responsible authorities of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic to desist absolutely from broadcasting any and all programs or films which are contrary to religious and civil laws, and through the broadcast of proper Islamic programs try to disseminate true Islamic values.

12719
CSO: 4640/387

IRAN

MONTAZERI: VISITORS MUST PERSUADE LEADERS TO SUBMIT TO ISLAM

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Qom—On the eighth day of the 10-day observances of the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, more than 200 foreigners participating in the anniversary ceremonies, a group of Air Force personnel, and various classes of people met with the great theologian Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri at the Martyrs' Hoseyniyeh in Qom.

During this meeting, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri welcomed the guests to the Fajr observances and praised the bravery of the Air Force personnel and their major role in bringing the revolution to fruition and aligning themselves with the ranks of the people at the beginning of the Islamic revolution. He reminded the Muslims of the world that Islam is a religion that builds and develops human beings on the path of the crusade for God, and he discussed the plots of the superpowers and their mobilization for the purpose of preventing the penetration and expansion of the Islamic revolution among the Muslim populations with the acquiescence of some of the leaders of Islamic countries. Addressing himself to those present, he said: In spite of the fact that all the superpowers of East and West and many leaders of Islamic countries have become mobilized against us and imposed a war on us, even with all these problems the Islamic revolution has become today a power that the superpowers reckon with. I say to the leaders of the Islamic countries that if America was able to protect the shah in Iran, it will also protect you. In the same connection, he addressed himself to the Islamic nations. He said: You Muslims have the responsibility of uniting under the leadership of aware clergymen and persuading the leaders of your countries to submit to Islam, and if they do not submit you must throw them into the trash can of history, like Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri added: You Muslims have the power, and with the power of Islam you can liberate dear Jerusalem and all the Islamic countries from the authority of oppressors. What I fear is that if you Muslims do not make a serious move, usurper Israel will not be satisfied with the lands of Lebanon and Palestine; it will also occupy the sacred shrines. He noted that America and Israel consider the Islamic revolution of Iran their greatest opponent and said: With this uprising that I see among the Muslim youth of Lebanon and other Islamic countries, you may be assured that Israel will not become a country with secure borders. They know that the Islamic revolution is the greatest danger to Israel and America. In conclusion, he called upon the guests participating in the ceremonies for the 10-day Fajr observance to convey the message of Iran, which is written with blood and martyrdom, to their own nations.

According to this report, after seeing Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri the guests went to the Qom Seminary Office of Islamic Propaganda, and while talking with several of this office's officials they saw various sections of the office and the library.

IRAN

BANDAR 'ABBAS ACTIVITIES DURING MARCH-SEPTEMBER 1984

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 20 Dec 84 p 20

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas--Over 3.2 million tons of goods were unloaded during March-September 1984 in Bandar 'Abbas and transported to other parts of the country.

According to a report, Mr Kheradmand the economic assistant director of the Hormozegan governor general's office, stated this in the meeting of the administrative council of this province and said: "While imports decreased 17 percent compared to the same time last year, exports in the 7 months of the current year have doubled compared to the same time last year." The economic assistant director of the governor general's office of Hormozegan added: "By the same token the number of ships waiting for unloading have decreased from 100 ships to 20 ships. In spite of 22 piers in Bandar 'Abbas an average of one ship is unloaded daily. This success is due to the precise planning of the ministry of road and transportation and the coordination of disciplinary and military officials."

The economic assistant director of the governor general's office of Hormozegan referred to the necessity of a decisive campaign against importers of smuggled goods and the negative effects of this action in the domestic economic process and said: "Protecting the water frontiers in order to attain self-sufficiency is necessary and an inevitable fact and if we do not confront this matter decisively all the efforts of the Majlis, the government, and other government workers of the Islamic Republic will be inconclusive."

In regard to the establishment of the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railroad and the effects of this line for expediting the transport of imported goods he said: "From 15 ports of Bandar 'Abbas-Bafq railroad which has 7 branches in Hormozegan Province, almost 25 percent of the construction of this railroad is complete."

According to the report, before the speech of the economic assistant director in the governor general's office of Hormozegan, the assistant director of this province referred to the imposed Iraqi war against Iran and the conditions caused by this war and the holy defense of the Persian Gulf and said: "The executive officials of Hormozegan Province must not forget the fact that the war is the principal issue and we are all also in the front line of this war

and a very heavy prophetic mission has been bestowed on the servants of the Islamic Republic in this sensitive region of our country. Therefore we must pursue the revolution's questions with reality and insight and see what has happened to us during this time, what is the future of our revolution's direction and what we are going to accomplish." He said: "Very soon we are going to start cooperation between the justice department of Hormozegan Province and the special inspecting groups to study the governor general's office complaints and investigation work in this regard."

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Ahmadi the imam's representative and the Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas talked in great length about chastity and faith among the executive officials, the effects of Islamic and humane actions by the employees of the government offices and the effects of non-Islamic treatment and added: "Today thanks to God, order in the Islamic Republic is stabilized and the counter-revolution does not have the power to confront it, but it uses its efforts through misrepresentation of the contents of the revolution and the shortcomings of the executive officials in order to discourage the people from the revolution and draw them out from the scene."

In this session Mr Matin the representative of the people of Bandar 'Abbas talked about unity and harmony among executive officials in order to serve the Islamic nation better. At the conclusion, several officials talked about the administrative questions and problems and certain officials of the offices were introduced to those present.

9815
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IRAN

MONTAZERI: CALLS FOR CENTERS SERVING FRONT COMBATANTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Qom—Members of the staff to attract and guide people's aid to the fronts, along with Rahmani and Hojjat ol-Eslam Golesorkhi met with His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri. They submitted a report on work completed, and informed him of problems arising from existing cooperation in some areas. Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri then gave a speech in which he praised them for their efforts. He said: Our primary purpose for forming this staff was to see that the people's aid to the fronts be organized, planned, and distributed on the basis of existing needs at the fronts. In order to strengthen the fronts, our people render aid in the name of this staff for the purpose meeting the special needs at the fronts. On this basis, the dear brothers in the revolutionary guards, the Army, the mobilization, the reconstruction crusade and the Gendarmerie must be fully aware that no one may use the people's aid to the fronts to meet the needs of his organization except at the fronts. This staff must arrange its affairs in such a way so that first of all, instead of having numerous organizations and offices with a lot of personnel in Tehran and the municipalities, it forms centers at the fronts themselves in order to study needs and assemble aid there. It must designate committed and worthy people to inspect the front and study various places. Wherever a need or a shortage is felt, it must be eliminated immediately through the people's aid. The dear brothers must know that work done solely for the purpose of satisfying God must not be motivated by any regard for the desires of this organization or that organization, or for having it in my name or your name. The primary objective is to procure items and meet the needs of the dear combatants at the fronts, regardless of the group, organization, or formation involved. We must not have one organization which somehow has the resources and equipment needed at the fronts while another organization also at the fronts lacks resources and basic weaponry for its personnel. This is absolutely wrong, and it must be confronted decisively and properly; care must be taken that the people's aid to the fronts is used only at the fronts. In the same connection he stressed: It is true that all organization and military groups procure items for the fronts and must be considered and supported, but each one has its own official and budget, and what the people give to the fronts must be used only at the fronts to meet the combat needs and shortages of the combatants. In conclusion, His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri thanked the people for their self-sacrificing support and the brothers on the staff for attracting and guiding people's aid. He called upon Golesorkhi and Rahmani to pursue this responsibility decisively and with determination, to remove discord, and to strive in every way to give greater attention to the needs of the dear brothers in the mobilization, who bear the brunt of the burden of the war. According to the same report, Tabriz Majlis representatives and the Governor-General of Gilan met and spoke with him separately. He was also presented with more than 1.5 million rials and a quantity of gold and jewelry from the residents of the villages of Qazvin by the Friday Imam of this municipality, as well as 1.4 million rials from the workers of Esfahan's Nahid factory by factory officials as aid to the fronts of the imposed war.

IRAN

TWENTY-SIX MORE IRAQI INVALIDS TO BE FREED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 26 Jan 85 p 19

[Text] The members of the delegation of the UN secretary general, which arrived in our country last Friday to study the situation of the Iraqi prisoners, after a one-week stay in Iran, left Tehran yesterday morning and was seen off at Mehrabad Airport by the director general for international affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several officials of this Ministry.

During their stay in Iran, the delegation inspected various camps where Iraqi prisoners are kept in several parts of the country and, without the presence of any intermediaries, spoke to the Iraqi prisoners for long hours and became familiar with their living conditions.

The members of this delegation also met and spoke with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister. According to this report, the director general for international affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was present at the airport to see the delegation off, in a press, radio and television interview, referred to the reception by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the delegation sent by the secretary general of the United Nations to investigate the situation of the Iraqi prisoners in Iran as well as Iranian prisoners in Iraq, said: In the beginning, we announced to the delegation that their planning will be in accordance with the proposal of the delegation. Also, we placed the complete list of the camps at their disposal and in order for the delegation to be completely free, we arranged all the visits to be conducted without any intermediaries, and the delegation spoke quite freely with the prisoners.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran officially asked the delegation to extend its stay in Iran in order to be able to visit other camps, but the delegation declined because of time constraints.

Referring to the thanks and appreciation extended by the United Nations to the Islamic Republic of Iran for facilitating the visit of that organization's delegation, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it would welcome any neutral suggestion to improve the condition of the prisoners and is prepared for any kind of cooperation in this area.

He said: This delegation will report the results of its work to the UN secretary general next week and we hope that this report will result in the improvement of our prisoners in Iraq. Also, the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it is prepared to free some of the disabled Iraqi prisoners unilaterally and continually. In this connection, 26 disabled Iraqi prisoners will be freed.

The director general for international affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized that the visit of the UN secretary delegation to Iran had been most successful and satisfactory and said: The issue of the prisoners is a human problem which is commonly used internationally as political propaganda, and the regime of Iraq has used this issue as a political propaganda leverage, and, unfortunately, the Red Cross has also gotten caught up in these problems.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to get a neutral observer to check the condition of the prisoners. Of course, the Red Cross is not exempted, provided it mends its past ways.

In the conclusion of this interview, he referred to the attack of the Iraqi airplanes on the residential areas of Dasht-e Azadegan and, emphasizing that with this action, the Iraqi regime has violated its agreement with the US secretary general not to attack residential areas, he explained that the report of the UN delegation, which observed the attacks on the residential areas in Iran, has endorsed the statements of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the areas bombed by the Iraqi regime were totally residential.

It should be pointed out that about 50,000 Iraqi prisoners, who are now detained in various prison camps in Iran have been captured by the Islamic combatants on Iranian soil and despite the invasion and occupation of our Islamic homeland, the Islamic Republic of Iran finds it its duty on the basis of Islamic beliefs to treat them most kindly and with Islamic compassion.

The UN Communique Expresses Satisfaction with Iran's Cooperation with the Delegation of the Secretary General

On the other hand, the delegation of the UN secretary general commissioned to investigate the conditions of the Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war believes that the officials of the Islamic

Republic of Iran provided them with the necessary help and cooperation and allowed them to freely come and go in the Iraqi prison camps and speak with the war prisoners in private. This is part of a communique published by a spokesman of Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general.

The above-mentioned communique states that (Benun Suvan), the director of the administration office of the United Nations, who is temporarily employed in the office of the deputy UN secretary general, (Diego Kordovez), has reported to Mr (Kordovez) that the UN delegation commissioned to investigate the conditions of the Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war satisfactorily continues their activities in Iran.

According to Mr (Suvan's) report, the members of this delegation feel that the government and other Iranian officials have not denied them the necessary cooperation and have allowed them to come and go freely in the Iraqi prison camps and to speak with the war prisoners in private.

10,000
CSO: 4640/372

IRAN

IRAQI PRISONERS SAID ALLOWED TO MEET FAMILIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] Tens of Iraqi prisoners met with their families during the ten-day Fajr observances at the Heshmatiyeh camp of Tehran.

The commander of the Heshmatiyeh post began the meeting by welcoming the guests and discussing the humanitarian measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Today the Iraqi prisoners are our guests, and we view it as our Islamic duty to treat them in an Islamic and humanitarian way.

In the course of these ceremonies, tens of Iraqi prisoners living in various Tehran camps met and spoke with their families.

In the same regard, Colonel Behnud, commander of the Heshmatiyeh base, spoke with KEYHAN's correspondent. He said: These meetings are taking place between Iraqi prisoners and their families who live within or outside of Iran. For this purpose, Iranian embassies abroad have also been told to make travel to Iran possible for those with family members in Iran who wish to visit them.

He added: These visits began some time ago, and will continue throughout Iran on a regular basis.

He also said: Visits for those prisoners being kept in Tehran's Heshmatiyeh camp include both visits between the prisoners and their families and visits between prisoners.

He added: For those Iraqi prisoners whose wives are visiting them, the necessary facilities have been made available in accordance with religious law.

While the Iraqi prisoners visited their families, our correspondent interviewed several of them.

'Abd ol-Sattar 'Alireza: Fifteenth Visit

'Abd ol-Sattar 'Alireza was one of the Iraqi prisoners talking with his family. He told KEYHAN's correspondent that he has been a prisoner of the forces of Islam for 32 months, during which he has visited his family, which fled from the war to Iran six months ago, fifteen times.

He said: Two months before being sent to the front by the Ba'thist forces I was in prison, and the first night I was sent to the front I surrendered to the forces of Islam.

Hasan Ebrahim Ja'far: Fifth Visit

Draftee Hasan Ebrahim Ja'far, who was captured by the forces of Islam three years ago in Operation Fath al-Mobin, spoke with KEYHAN's correspondent last Thursday while visiting with his nephews. He said that his family was driven out of Iraq six months ago and is living in Iran.

Noting that this is his fifth visit, he said that he visits his family every three months or so. He expressed the hope that with Saddam's destruction and the victory of the forces of Islam, he would return to his family's embrace.

'Abd al-Amir Ja'far Ka'bi: First Visit

Reserve draftee 'Abd al-Amir Ja'far Ka'bi, who was also captured three years ago in Operation Fath al-Mobin by the combatants of Islam, visited his sister and son-in-law for the first time last Thursday.

Being extremely happy, he told KEYHAN's correspondent that this event was a great happiness for him and his family, and that he is very pleased with this step taken by the Islamic republic.

He asked Iranian officials to continue these visits by making more facilities available.

Our correspondent reports that last Thursday the Iraqi prisoners and their guests were the guests of the Heshmatiyeh base for lunch.

The visit between the Iraqi prisoners and their families ended Thursday afternoon.

9310
CSO: 4600/407

IRAN

THIRTY IRAQI PRISONERS TO BE FREED UNILATERALLY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Following the unilateral announcement of [the release of] 30 Iraqi prisoners, at the invitation of the war propaganda headquarters, a group of reporters of the domestic and foreign mass media met and spoke with the above-mentioned prisoners in the military police station of the capital.

The KEYHAN correspondent, who spoke to a few of these prisoners, writes his observations about the situation of these prisoners: Although some of these prisoners were disabled, some have lost their legs on the front and some have recently recovered from bullet wounds on the fronts, when we talked to each of them, they expressed their satisfaction with the services and the proper treatment by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their faces showed their happiness at expecting to be with their families soon.

I asked Fazel 'Abdol-Reza Hemadi, who had lost one leg and whose other leg was broken and in a cast: How do you feel about expecting to be with your family in a few days, and what memories of your stay in Iran will you recount to your compatriots?

With a smile, in which the signs of security and tranquility could be detected, he said: If I did not have a responsibility towards my family, I would not want to leave here. I leave your country with memories of kindness, humanity and lessons in patience, morality and behavior, which is deserving of Iranians. I will tell my children that I learned of Islam from the Iranians. The humane behavior of Iranians revived the high teachings of the Koran for me.

I am a reserve soldier. Three years ago, against my wishes, I was pressed, along with a large number of my friends, into service and we were immediately sent to the front. On the Shush front, I was injured when I was hit by a quiver. Moments after I

was wounded, the Iranian combatants took me behind the front and arranged for my hospitalization. I was treated for one year in the hospital and as a result of the constant efforts of Iranian physicians and nurses, I escaped certain death, and today I have recovered, returning to my homeland happy and with a spirit full of brotherhood.

Haden Hasan[ma'ard], who is also a reserve soldier and is able to move on crutches, said: I received a bullet wound in the Moharram operations 27 months ago on the 'Eyn Khosh front. After the preliminary treatment, I was transferred to Tehran and was hospitalized in the 505-bed hospital. I was treated for four and a half months, until I recovered. At present, I walk on crutches. I am happy that as a result of the generous efforts of Iranian physicians and the constant care of the treatment cadre, I have recovered. Today, I owe my life to Iranians.

Another prisoner who could speak Persian said: On behalf of all my friends, I thank the officials of the Islamic Republic, including the health and treatment cadre of those hospitals in which we were treated, for their proper behavior and valuable service. He said: What we observed of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran was that they insured our comfort in all camps. He said: Witnessing such actions, I realized the falsity of the reports in the Western media concerning the mistreatment of the prisoners. He said: The physicians and the treatment cadre considered me a brother, and this stems from high Islamic teachings that all human beings are equal and brothers.

He said: The Iraqi regime had spread propaganda among the people that Iranians are not Muslims. But, having become prisoners, we realized that this claim was a lie. Here, in addition to participating in prayers and worship, we learned the Koran. I ask God to fight on the Lebanon and Afghanistan fronts against the enemies of God upon complete recovery.

Statements of an Official

Concerning the degree, number and reason for the unilateral release of prisoners, an official of the military police of the capital said: All these prisoners are reserve soldiers. This is the fifth group that, for purely humanitarian reasons, the government of the Islamic Republic has unilaterally decided to place at the disposal of a third country to be freed. He said: This group was wounded on various fronts and after their hospitalization and treatment, it was decided that they should be released. In conclusion, he said:

We have provided all the resources and privileges that we have for reserve soldiers for these prisoners as well, and from their conversations you realized that the physicians and the treatment cadre of the hospitals had expended their best efforts for their treatment and recovery.

IRAN

PARDON OF OPPONENTS DENIED BY SAIRI

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] The Supreme Islamic Revolutionary Council of Iraq has announced in a proclamation: The Ba'thist regime's claim that it is granting amnesty to its opponents is being made for the sake of appearances. Just as has been proven earlier, the aim of this plan is to detain and arrest more opponents of the Iraqi regime.

In the proclamation from the Supreme Islamic Revolutionary Council of Iraq, all groups and organizations opposed to the Ba'thist regime of Iraq were called upon to increase the intensity of their struggle to overthrow the criminal regime of Iraq and to create an Islamic government in this country.

The first part of the proclamation said: Once again Saddam's criminal regime is repeating its cosmetic measures to perpetuate its crumbling government. The Ba'thist regime of Iraq, which these days has weakened and lost ground politically, militarily, and economically, is trying to deceive the Iraqi nation and world opinion with the plot of so-called amnesty; in this regard criminal Saddam is issuing a general amnesty. It is clear that there is no difference between this measure and its previous counterparts, except that the struggles of the Islamic movement have been recognized.

Another part of the proclamation said: How can the claims of the Iraqi regime be believed when this regime has made vagabonds of the children of Iraq because of their opposition to the policies of the infidel Ba'thist Party? Therefore how can the recent Ba'thist regime's recent decisions concerning amnesty for opposition elements and forces outside Iraq be accepted, while this regime insists on imprisoning tens of thousands of our crusading brothers and opponents of the Iraqi regime? The Iraqi regime, which is pardoning its opponents abroad, would do better first of all to free the prisoners in the prisons.

The concluding section of the proclamation praised the high morale of the people of Iraq and expressed the hope that this plot will be thwarted. It called upon world public opinion and the international organizations to study the bad conditions of tens of thousands of political prisoners in the Ba'thist regime's black pits, especially the Security Organization's prisons in Sa'dun, Abu Gharib, and the Ramadi, Mawsil, and Nuqrat al-Salman bases, and to study these crimes.

9310
CSO: 4600/407

IRAN

NUMBER OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES, FEDA'IYAN-E KHALQ ARRESTED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 85 p 23

[Text] In two separate statements, the Ministry of Information announced on the sixth anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran and on the occasion of the observance of the Fajr 10-day ceremonies, that a large number of deviationist elements affiliated with the Feda'iyan-e Khalq counterrevolutionary mini-group (the Koshtgar wing) mostly composed of cadre, members, and organizational elements, and 20 hypocrites, were either arrested or killed.

In the first Ministry of Information statement, it says that a considerable quantity of weapons, ammunition, and various types of equipment for printing, publishing, forging passports, visas, driver's licenses, as well as a quantity of internal documents and papers belonging to the Keshrit group of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq were found and confiscated.

Those arrested were the instigators of the upheavals in Kordestan and Gonbad, who made a tactical change in policy after their criminal conduct in creating the incidents in the Torkeman Desert was exposed, and changed their colors to protect the interest of their masters.

In its statement, the Ministry of Information again warned the deluded people of the mini-groups affiliated with East and West to stop blindly following and obeying, to abandon the belittling vision the fiends have of the Islamic republic, and to return to the fold of Islam and the heroic nation.

In another statement, the Ministry of Information announced that after numerous strikes made with the grace and kindness of God and with the powerful hands of nameless soldiers in the provinces of Tehran, Esfahan, and Mazandaran against the rotten corpse of the hypocrites, mercenaries for world imperialism, 20 of these lackeys were killed or arrested.

These mercenaries, continuing their crimes, martyred a number of innocent people, including a 65-year-old man employed as a grocer, a 60-year-old man working as a liver seller, a carpenter, a seed seller, and a pipe seller. Fifteen weapons, 30 bombs and grenades, 15 vehicles, and a large number of internal group documents and forgery equipment were confiscated from the team homes of these lackeys to world imperialism.

9310
CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

PRIME MINISTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 2 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Mr Qara'ati, the representative of the imam and the director of the literacy movement, and Mr Ali Akbar Parvaresh, accompanied by other members of the supervisory council of this movement, met Monday with Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister.

During this visit Hojjat ol-Eslam Qara'ati first presented a report about the operation and difficulties of the literacy movement. Then Mr Musavi the prime minister said in a detailed speech that he appreciated the work of the responsible officials and teacher aides of the literacy movement and referred to the importance of this movement from different political, educational, and social dimensions and indicated that to make the nation's illiterate literate is one of the fundamental necessities for protecting the gains and future guarantees of the Islamic Revolution. "The literate person with enough knowledge will better recognize the real path from the deviated path and such a person cannot be deceived. Therefore to teach literacy and provide availability to possible knowledge is necessary to protect the revolution and its gains." The prime minister added: "General teaching of illiterates is also effective for increasing the quality and quantity of industrial and agricultural products. Therefore the economic expansion of the country is dependent on teaching literacy. In addition today the deprived world has fixed its eyes upon the Islamic Revolution from every dimension and among the expectations of the world's people is the presentation of a suitable ego for a decisive world literacy campaign and eradication of illiteracy in the world. For this purpose it is anticipated that all legal resources in the nation along with the resources of the corps and army will be used."

The prime minister also considered it necessary to establish the connection between teaching literacy and using government services in presenting guidelines and in this regard he said: "Today the interest in teaching literacy exists among all the nation's proper authorities and we must take maximum advantage of these interests."

In the continuation of this meeting it was decided that a committee consisting of representatives of the ministry of labor and education and training, administrative and employment organizations and the literacy movement be commissioned to research and investigate projects for literacy

training in order to meet the needs of the literacy movement. The use of the propaganda apparatus of the Voice and Vision for the purpose of this movement was also considered.

At the conclusion of this visit a check in the amount of 5 million rials was presented to our nation's prime minister from the teacher aides of the literacy movement for the war fronts and the battle of truth against falsehood.

9815
CSO: 4640/316

IRAN

DEPUTY MINISTER GIVES VIEWS ON EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] A three-day meeting of educational aides in the country's provincial offices of education and training began yesterday morning at the 'Alameh Tabataba'i Cultural Center of Tehran, attended by the Minister of Education and Training and this ministry's general staff managers.

In the first session of the meeting, Seyyed Kazem Akrami, Minister of Education and Training, gave a speech on the position and rank of scholars and teachers from the point of view of the Glorious Koran. He said: We have many traditions concerning scholars and teachers. You must use these traditions for writing and installing personnel in your work place, so that your dear colleagues will become aware of the value of their positions while at the same time becoming familiar with Islamic culture.

In another part of his speech, Akrami said: We must take inspiration from the dear Imam's latest speech, issued on 22 Bahman [11 Feb], and, just as he said, put the war at the top of our agenda, and make the utmost effort to strengthen the fronts and the positions behind the lines.

The Minister of Education and Training then discussed the continued education of combative students. He said: Arrangements must be made for students who go to the fronts so that they will not worry about continuing their education. The necessary facilities must be made available to them for maintenance classes, classes to be formed at the fronts, and the administration of examinations so that they can go to the fronts of the battle of the Truth against the Vain with peace of mind. In order to express esteem for the sacrifices of these dear ones, the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council has authorized the inclusion of some combative students in the universities.

With regard to greater contact with the clergy, Akrami said: Another matter is the creation of more direct and firm relations between the teachers and the clergy; these relations must be greatly increased, and be established for the purpose of academic and intellectual exchanges.

He then referred to the sacredness of the teaching and training environment and the teaching profession. He said: Every person who enters the school must have divine motivation, and this value must be strengthened in the schools day by day. Of course, steps have been taken to solve the problems of the dear teachers, and we are trying to solve the rest of their problems. Included is the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council's agreement, for their continued education, that part of the Teacher's College be set aside for teachers from rural and deprived areas, so that they may find their way into the Teacher's College.

Addressing himself to educational aides, he then said: Teachers who improve their knowledge through independent study must be somehow encouraged.

Seyyed Kazem Akrami then discussed the reasons for under-education. He commented to the participants concerning raising education to a minimum level, and called upon school principals and other educational workers to be fully alert and persistent in this matter. He also said: We must deal with this in an Islamic, ethical manner; we must vigorously obstruct those who are seeking to serve their own ends. I will vigorously fight those promoting themselves or a group.

Teachers who are opposed to Islam and the vice-regency of the chief theologian will also be dealt with decisively.

In conclusion he discussed the employment of all teachers in examinations for students. He said: Try to make use of all interested ministry employees in test administration. Do not limit this task to one class. Do not allow a few people each year to administer the tests; invite everyone to cooperate.

9310
CSO: 4600/407

IRAN

NEW REGULATIONS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] KEYHAN Cultural Service—New regulations approved by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education have been announced on the use of educational foreign exchange, with provisions for improving the quantity and quality of education for Iranian students outside the country.

The full text of the new guidelines appears below.

General Requirements

Iranian citizenship.

Note: Those with additional citizenships because of birth, marriage, or other reasons who officially resign from their foreign citizenship and whose arrival at the educational site is confirmed by the office representing the Islamic Republic of Iran, may receive educational foreign exchange provided they observe all other regulations.

Adherence to the true religion of Islam or another religion officially recognized in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Belief in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its organizations, and avoidance of activities contrary to the interests of the country, such as cooperating and collaborating with counterrevolutionary wings and terrorist mini-groups.

Observance of ethical propriety and preserving the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran outside the country.

Maximum age of 23 years for beginning a bachelor's degree program, 30 years for beginning a master's degree, and 35 years for a Ph. D.

Note 1: For those who have completed military service, the length of their period of service is added to the above maximum ages.

Note 2: Maximum ages for students who began studying before the 1363-64 [1984-85] academic year are 35 years for the bachelor's degree, 40 years for the master's degree, and 45 years for higher degrees.

Note 3: Students who have undertaken continued studies with the consent of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and who are studying under scholarship or temporarily are exempt from the age restrictions above.

Possession of a valid passport.

Possession of a valid visa from the country where studies will be done. Note: Students who have acquired or do acquire permanent residency permits in the country of study may only use educational foreign exchange if the permit has been given to them without them requesting it and cannot be changed, according to the relevant country's existing laws and with the confirmation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The mother or father, or, in the event both are dead, the person who supports the student must be a permanent resident of Iran who is living there.

Note: Students whose parents are abroad studying on student visas are exempt from this requirement.

The student's program of study must lead to university academic credentials of at least a bachelor's degree. (The determination of the value of academic credentials is the responsibility of the Evaluation Council of the Minister of Culture and Higher Education). In countries which have pre-university programs, students with scholarships or who are specially sent are exempt from this requirement, with the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Note: Students with less than a high school diploma, those studying by correspondence, and those in special internship programs of study may not under any circumstances use educational foreign exchange.

Students may request educational foreign exchange for a new program of study if the new program is higher than the previous one.

The student's field of study must be needed by the country (a list of accredited fields needed by the country will be made available to applicants by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education).

Note: Students who selected and began their studies before the 1360 – 1361 [1981 – 1982] academic year are exempted from this requirement only until the end of their program.

The educational institution at the study site must be accredited. Accreditation is done by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

If it is determined by a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran or the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education that a student submitted forged or fraudulent documents, on the first occurrence, if he apologizes, he will be suspended from eligibility for educational foreign exchange for a year, and he will be permanently ineligible after any subsequent occurrence.

Those who left the country before 4/1/1361 [1 June 1982] and are currently studying may continue to receive educational foreign exchange from the second year of university study on if they submit their acceptance for the first year of university study and it is affirmed and accepted by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Those who left the country after 4/1/1361 [1 June 1982] without authorization from the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education may only obtain educational foreign exchange if they participate and are accepted in the selection procedure for students to be sent abroad for each program of university study.

Note: The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education will not provide student services of any kind to those to whom this article applies. Merely for their benefit and to facilitate matters for them, it will issue them a student airline ticket if they ask to return permanently.

Students with a bachelor's degree and a minimum grade average of 2.5 out of four or the equivalent or a master's degree or higher with a minimum grade average of three out of four or the equivalent which they have obtained outside the country may obtain educational foreign exchange to begin a higher program if all other regulations in the guidelines are observed.

Note: Those who have begun a program of study in violation of the provisions in the above article may continue to use educational foreign exchange after confirmation and consent of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education if they submit certification of passing for at least one year out of the total period of the program of study.

The maximum interruption allowed between study periods abroad without obtaining educational foreign exchange is six months for schools on the term system and one year for schools on the year system.

Note: If the interruption between study periods exceeds the above limits, the continued receipt of educational foreign exchange requires the submission of certification of passing for at least one academic year and the confirmation of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Special Regulations

At the time of application for educational foreign exchange students must be considered full-time with the required number of credit hours, and they must meet the following requirements:

The minimum requirements for credits or tested studies in order to obtain educational foreign exchange for bachelor's degree programs in various countries are listed below:

America: At least 28 semester credits or 42 quarter credits per year, with a minimum of eight credits per term.

Germany: Three passing examinations per term in the higher schools and two passing examinations in the universities.

Austria: A minimum of 10 hours passed per term.

Spain, Turkey, and India: Passage is required for 2/3 of all classes (per term or per year).

Italy: Requirements as stated in the table located at the office of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Office of Affairs for Students Abroad.

The Philippines: 30 credits per year for dentistry majors and 40 credits for all other fields.

Other countries, if their systems conform to any of those listed above, will be treated in the same way, and if not, submission of passing certification for the previous year and registration in the next higher class will be required.

Conditions for Cutting off Currency

Note: Students who do not pass the number of units required for full-time status are considered half-time. In countries where tuition is figured into their stipend, on the first occurrence they will receive 80 percent of the stipend. On the second occurrence they will receive 60 percent, and they will be denied educational foreign exchange on the third occurrence. In countries where tuition is figured separately, on the first occurrence 90 percent of the stipend may be used; 70 percent may be used on the second occurrence, and educational foreign exchange will be denied on the third occurrence. If in each instance above a student has the credits needed for full-time status, student foreign exchange will be paid in the normal manner. Half-time students studying in full-year systems are not authorized to obtain educational foreign exchange.

The determination of the credits or classes required for full-time status in master's degree programs or higher in the educational systems of various countries will be based on certification from the relevant university that the student is full-time.

At the time of application for foreign exchange, the student must meet the following grade requirements:

The average grade for the last year of study in a bachelor's degree program must be at least 2.4 out of four or the equivalent.

The average grade for the last year of study in a master's degree program or higher must be at least three out of four or the equivalent.

A student's overall grade average in a bachelor's degree program must be at least two out of four, or the equivalent. Otherwise, he cannot obtain educational foreign exchange until his overall grade average reaches the above minimum again.

Note 1: Students who fail to have the annual credits required according to parts one and two of Article 16 will be warned the first time. The second time they will draw 80 percent of their educational foreign exchange; the third time they will draw 60 percent, and the fourth time they will be denied educational foreign exchange. In each of the instances above, if the proper average number of credits is maintained, educational foreign exchange will be handled in the normal way.

Note 2: Students who are expelled more than once during a single program from schools on an annual system will be warned the first time. The second time, the student will be denied educational foreign exchange; if approved by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, educational foreign exchange will be made available conditionally.

Maximum Period of Study

The maximum lengths of periods of study in which educational foreign exchange may be obtained in various countries and at every point during one's absence from the country and for the beginning of a new period of study outside the country are listed below.

America: Bachelor's degree, 4.5 years, master's degree two years, and Ph.D. four years.

England: Pre-university, 24 months maximum, post-high school (H.N.D.), 26 months maximum. After the pre-university period, 48 months maximum for the period equivalent to the bachelor's degree; for the bachelor's degree including a work training period, 12 months; for a master's degree after the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, 24 months maximum; for the M.Phil. program, 36 months after the bachelor's degree, 24 months after a bachelor's degree equivalent, and 12 months after a master's degree; for the doctor's degree, 48 months after the master's degree, 36 months after the M. Phil., 72 months after the bachelor's degree, and 60 months after the bachelor's degree equivalent.

France: Bachelor's degree, four years; master's degree (D.F.A.), two years; doctorate, third cycle, four years after the bachelor's degree (*maîtrise*) and two years after the master's degree; government doctorate, three years after the third cycle doctorate; new doctorate, five years after the master's degree; medical doctor, seven years after the high school diploma; doctor of dentistry, five years after the high school diploma; doctor of engineering, six years after the high school diploma.

Switzerland: Pre-university, maximum 12 months; bachelor's degree, four years after the pre-university degree; pre-doctorate bachelor's degree, five years; medical doctor, seven years; dentistry and pharmacy, 5.5 years.

Belgium: Bachelor's degree, four years; master's degree, two years; doctorate three years; bachelor's degree with doctorate, five years; medical doctor, seven years after high school diploma; dentistry and pharmacy, five years after high school diploma.

Germany and Austria: Pre-university, 24 months; bachelor's degree equivalent, four years; diploma with master's degree, six years; master's degree with doctorate, three years.

India: Pre-university, one year; bachelor's degree equivalent, three years; bachelor's degree, four years; diploma with master's degree, five years; master's degree, two years; diploma with medical doctorate and dentistry, 5.5 years; master's degree with doctorate, three years.

Pakistan: Bachelor's degree equivalent, three years; bachelor's degree four years; master's degree, two years; master's degree with doctorate, four years; diploma with medical doctorate and dentistry, six years.

The Philippines: Bachelor's degree, four years; master's degree, two years; bachelor's degree with doctorate, four years; master's degree with doctorate, three years; diploma with doctorate of dentistry, six years.

Turkey: Bachelor's degree, four years; diploma with master's degree, five years; bachelor's degree with master's degree, two years; diploma with doctorate, six years; bachelor's degree with doctorate, four years.

Italy: Requirements as stated in the table located at the office of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Office of Affairs for Students Abroad.

Periods of study for other countries will be determined on the basis of the university system for periods of study and studies by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Six months of language instruction shall be taken by those whose last degree was in a country different than the current country of study.

Students who do not succeed in obtaining a degree during the period authorized for the bachelor's degree or its equivalent may, on compassionate grounds, continue to use educational foreign exchange (with code 50) for a maximum of 1/3 of the authorized length of time, provided that during the previous two years of study they had a minimum each year of 28 semester credits or 40 quarter credits or the equivalent with a grade average of at least 2.4 or its equivalent. For the master's degree the maximum extension is six months; for the doctorate, one year.

On one-year systems, the maximum extension is two half-years with code 50.

Note 1: Students who did not use educational foreign exchange for at least three months prior to the completion of their academic program, may, with the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, use educational foreign exchange for a maximum of three months as foreign exchange for returning to Iran with preparation to transfer to a higher academic program. For this purpose, the period between receiving the degree and the date of return to Iran must not be more than six months. For those who have earned a doctorate or higher, the period is subject to approval by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Note 2: In exceptional cases when the period of the academic program is more or less than the length of time authorized, it may be changed on consultation with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Notes

Changes of major, university, or country of study are only authorized if academic standing is maintained and the other regulations in these guidelines are observed.

Allowances for spouses and children will be figured on the basis of a 100 percent stipend until the educational foreign exchange is cut off. In cases when a student's educational foreign exchange is reduced for some reason, such reductions will not result in the reduction of allowances for spouse and children. Allowances for spouses and children will be cut off only when the educational foreign exchange stipend is discontinued. In other words, fluctuations in a student's educational foreign exchange stipend will have no effect on allowances for spouse and children.

Note: Allowances for children are issued only to male students. Females may obtain allowances for children only submitting documents showing that they have the right to support their children.

Note: Allowances for children under seven years of age are issued to female students.

The issuance of a foreign exchange permit requires the preparation, completion, and submission of a foreign exchange request and the necessary documents to the Minister of Culture and Higher Education. The documents sent must be certified authentic by a the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The quantity of foreign exchange that may be transferred by each student is based on the authorization of the Council of Ministers.

Students who obtain foreign exchange from an independent source may only draw the difference between that amount and the amount of foreign exchange covered by these guidelines.

In cases where the allocation of currency to a student is not covered by these guidelines, the pertinent officials in the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education will study the matter and decide directly.

IRAN

TALENTED, EAGER PEOPLE MUST NOT BE DEPRIVED OF EDUCATION

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 22 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] The president of the Free Islamic University and the directors of the nationwide units of this university met yesterday with Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili president of the supreme court and a member of the supreme council for educational revolution.

In this meeting Abdullah Jasebi the president of the Free Islamic University first presented a report about the two-year activities of this university and its successful training systems, especially the doctorate course which was recently established and a part of the people's aid as the most fundamental and sublime reserve of this university. Then Ayatollah Musavi in a speech referred to the necessity of using a training system similar to the Free Islamic University to help those who are interested in continuing their studies. He emphasized the promotion of teaching quality and expansion of this system to eliminate the shortage of higher learning institutions in the country. Ayatollah Musavi called the establishment of the Free Islamic University a useful and necessary first step for improving the environment for higher learning in the country and referred to the fact that providing possibilities for interested youth in the field of higher education is a must and added: "Under present conditions the shortage of training environments and attracting all the youth who have graduated from preparatory school and have the aptitude for continuing their education is the country's problem."

He said: "This matter not only creates problems for these people, their families, and society, it also to some extent has effects on the deviation of our youth. In addition the lack of educational possibilities for the talented and eager people of the country creates shortages of specialized manpower. The expansion of the Free Islamic University could solve problems in this regard."

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili a member of the supreme council for educational revolution in pointing out that in our Islamic society talented and eager people must not be deprived of studying because of lack of educational possibilities added: "The most suitable way for those who are eager to continue higher education is the Free Islamic University. This system must be expanded to some extent in order to answer the demand of all the eager people who are interested in learning scientific skills and the country

needs specialist forces." He also stated that naturally the mere expansion of the Free Islamic University without careful attention to the quality of training cannot be viewed favorably. Therefore increasing the scientific quality of higher learning in this system must be considered more than an expansion of the quantity.

The president of the supreme court at the conclusion referred to those problems of the society which originate from training questions and said: "If we succeed in proliferating the training programs in the system of Free Islamic University, undoubtedly many of the related problems will be automatically eliminated."

9815
CSO: 4640/316

IRAN

KHAMENE'I: COMMITTEES MUST BE SHELTERS, HOPE FOR PEOPLE

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—On the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the formation of the Islamic revolutionary committees, ceremonies were held yesterday afternoon at Tehran's Martyr Afrasiabi Hall, attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, President of the Republic and Chief of the Supreme Defense Council, the Minister of the Interior, the Imam's representative in the revolutionary guards, the Assistant Committee Supervisor, the Chief of the Joint Staff, the commanders of the Air Force and the Navy, and the commanders and families of committee martyrs.

After readings from the Glorious Koran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek, Assistant Committee Supervisor, while welcoming the president, gave him a brief history and a report on the current activities of the committees.

In the midst of a strong outpouring of feeling from the committee revolutionary guards, the president gave a speech.

The president discussed the formation of the committees and their characteristics. He said: The committees are actually an astonishing phenomenon. It may be said that they illustrate the dimensions of the Islamic revolution; the very basic and constructive dimensions of the revolution of which we are proud and which we refer to in slogans are crystallized in the committees.

Noting the outstanding reception of the people for the march of 22 Bahman [11 February], the Chief of the Supreme Defense Council said: Confused and blind groups expected the people not to welcome this march, but yesterday you saw a great crowd of people in Azadi Square. No one called upon the people to march, not the Imam or any official; this great throng of people was organized solely with a proclamation from the Islamic Propaganda Coordination Council, which is a people's organization. Seeing the movement of this great ocean from the platform, I felt insignificant; indeed we are minute particles before this roaring ocean.

The Chief of the Supreme Defense Council explained how the will of the people has led to victory in the history of the struggle of the people against humanity. He said: When the Iranian nation accepted the revolution with all its power, it decided to preserve it, and was successful. Today this is our message to the Muslim nations. Some of the area's leaders are asking America for help with the issues in the Middle East. This is a mistake, because the cause of the difficulties in the Middle East is America itself. We believe that the solution to the problems in the area can only be achieved with the capable hands of the people and the Muslim nations, and we ourselves are the vanguard of these nations. One of the sources of pride in our revolution is the very fact that it

relies on the people themselves, and this characteristic is more evident in the Islamic revolutionary committees. Among the characteristics of the revolution and of the committees as well is the fact that they are populist. The revolution does not stand on one person or group; it belongs to the entire nation, and the committees are formed by individuals from among the people.

The president noted that there is much talk of the fact that the revolution is Islamic, and that this must be repeated forever. The fact that the government of the Islamic republic is Islamic is one of its most fundamental and basic formative elements of the government. Today the situation in the world is such that leaders of governments who had never heard of Islam are claiming to be Muslim because of the situation that the victory of the Islamic revolution has created in the world. People in North Africa with no knowledge of Islam who were being led around by the nose by America are now claiming to be leading Islamic regimes.

The Chief of the Supreme Defense Council added: The committees must give the people hope and shelter; the people must have a feeling of kindness for the committees. This kindness must be enduring; the people must feel that the committees are an extension of themselves. On that day when a filthy deluded individual wants to assassinate a merchant for the crime of being revolutionary, the people must feel that the committees are there and ready to defend them.

The president also stressed coordination between revolutionary forces and the preservation of laws and regulations. He said: I believe that observance of regulations is one of the most revolutionary practices. The Majlis is looking into the matter of a charter for the committees, but the important thing is a legal framework so that the committees can fulfill their responsibilities according to laws and regulations. Praise God, until now, they have fulfilled them well.

In conclusion, the president praised the families of the committee martyrs. He said:

I consider it necessary to send my sincere greetings to you families of committee martyrs, you whose children protected the revolution during the most difficult and sensitive days of the revolution, in the streets, at the gates of the cities, and everywhere. From the first days of the revolution they gave their lives fighting the remnants and debris of the previous regime and other counterrevolutionary forces. You martyrs' families are the very proof of the pride of the committees.

After the president's remarks, the combat operations of the committee revolutionary guards were portrayed in a drama for the audience.

9310
CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

GOVERNMENT, MAJLIS STRIVE TO ALTER SINGLE-IMPORT STATUS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Qom—KEYHAN correspondence—The weeks political and devotional prayers in Qom, attended by a throng of the ever-present people, was led by temporary Friday imam Ayatollah Sane'i at the Imam Sadeq (Peace Be Upon Him) School.

Before the sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam Tehrani, a Qom Seminary faculty member, discussed the responsibilities of the people to an Islamic government in a speech. Then Ayatollah Sane'i, in his first sermon, continuing the discussion of previous weeks, discussed the importance of trustworthiness in Islam. He said: All the blessings of God are in trust in God. It is not that the matter of maintaining trust is on the shoulders of a special class of people; this is everyone's responsibility. The person who converts agricultural land to a store and prevents the production of agricultural crops, or who builds a house on a piece of land in violation of religious and secular law, has betrayed a trust. That merchant who sells at high prices, that hypocritical status-seeking clergyman, and the official who does wrong are traitors. We must bear this burden of trust which is on our shoulders to our homes as stewards of God, so that on resurrection day we will not be ashamed in the presence of God's saints and prophets. In his second sermon, Ayatollah Sane'i discussed the people's splendid march on 22 Bahman [11 Feb]. He said: The people's march on the anniversary of the revolution encouraged the workers and disgraced and humiliated the enemy. Our people have shown themselves to be lovingly devoted to the revolution; it is the Imam's connection with the Source and the prophets, the blood of the martyrs, the devotion of the combatants, and the around-the-clock efforts of the people and officials for this revolution which brought them into the streets this way. He added: With the help of counterrevolutionary elements, the superpowers were saying that the people are disillusioned and fed up with the revolution. In order to give substance to their claims, they fired two shots at the prosecutor's building, loudly proclaiming that it had been hit by rockets and that ambulances carried corpses for a long time. Supposing all the officials had been killed, does the revolution depend on individuals? For this insignificant act they made all this commotion, but 250,000 people remembered the millions of 22 Bahman [11 Feb 1979]. The counterrevolutionaries must realize that they can no longer do anything in this country. The revolutionary guards, the police, and an intelligence organization of 37 million people will no longer allow them to continue their previous crimes. The counterrevolutionaries believe that they can damage the revolution by killing a simple employee in the mayor's office. This act, however, makes them more contemptible in the eyes of the people, and this is no more than an insane move. The temporary Friday Imam of Qom then enumerated the attainments of the Islamic revolution. He said: After five years of war, the people continue to help at the fronts will all their being, chanting "war, war until victory." While the war consumes more than one-third of the country's budget, our government not only has not taken loans from other countries, it has paid off billions of dollars in debts owed

by the idolaters' regime and has succeeded in lowering inflation to 12.5 percent. In the budget presented for the current year, 107 billion tomans are allocated for development. Our government and our Majlis, with absolute decisiveness and reliance on God, and you the nation are trying to deliver the country from having a single product and a single export. In the budget for the current year this matter has been precisely observed, and the reliance on oil has been minimized.

The temporary Friday Imam of Qom gave statistics on the provision of electrical power to rural people and other services provided by the government. He referred to the Imam's 22 Bahman [11 Feb] message, and added: In his message, the Imam was referring to the Partisans of God. I believe that if dissatisfaction has appeared in places, it is from the very people who have returned to work or repented. That person who has sincerely served from the beginning on the committees, the revolutionary guards, in the courts, and elsewhere, is not engaged in obstructionism, lest he become proud. Good people must not become proud. The Imam's message is so well considered that one would think he is everywhere, in contact with everyone, governing with reason and logic. His message must be acted upon to the letter. In conclusion, he observed the anniversary of the bloody uprising of 29 Bahman [18 Feb], the anniversary of the uprising of the people of Tabriz, and gave his condolences and congratulations to the survivors of the martyrs and to the brave people of that city.

9310
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IRAN

MAJLIS APPROVES PROVISIONS OF IMPORT-EXPORT BILL

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—The Majlis met in open session this morning. During this session, presided over by Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the representatives of Ramhormoz, Chabahar, and Qomsheh gave speeches prior to the regular agenda.

The first speech before the agenda was given by Abol-Qasem Davud ol-Musavi (Damghani), representative of Ramhormoz. He discussed the measures taken by the former regime. He said: World imperialism used every means at its disposal, through its surrogates, to eliminate Islam and its effects, to the point that it removed Islamic history and wanted to take Friday away from us; it wanted to remove Arabic terms from Persian books on the grounds that Arabic is a foreign language, so that all access to knowledge of Islam would be removed from our country.

He discussed the imprisonment, torture and exile of resisters and the prevalence of corruption and the enjoinder of evil and prohibition of the good during the former regime. He said: We must not forget how they portrayed religion as the agent of decadence and backwardness, or the opium of society, how they emphasized this nonsense; we must not forget the degrading and humiliating contracts of that day with which they traded our wealth and treasure. In those days the Imam shouted to the condemned shah not to sell Iran and the Iranian nation, and we saw how they sold it.

Musavi Damghani then addressed himself to the representatives, the judicial powers, all the country's officials, the seminaries, the clergy, and so forth. He said: The goal of world imperialism was to eliminate Islam and its constructive humanitarian effects. We know that whatever they did was done by the hands of those within the country who had acquiesced to imperialism, the same ones who undercut Islam and placed their hopes with the East and the West. The interim government and the problems that it created were due to this very dependence on the West. They allowed opposition to the constitution and the principle of the vice-regency of the chief theologian; the Tabas raid and the Nuzeh coup d'etat were done with their assistance. The leaders of the hypocrites and mini-groups, whether on the right or the left, had all acquiesced to the East and the West. I remind everyone that these people have not disappeared; they still exist, and they are the same tricksters of whom our dear Imam warned us in his inspired speech of 22 Bahman [11 Feb].

Yes, they came along with the bludgeon of specialization and presented themselves with great importance and began working their strategy like a chess game, posing a threat against which alertness was required, gradually trying to take over positions and give them to their intellectual allies. One must be vigilant and alert to their movements in institutions, especially in the judicial

branch. He then referred to the Imam's message concerning the preservation of the Partisans of God forces and the prevention of their rejection. He said: These very people fought the idolaters, went to prison, were tortured, stood before firing squads, stood their ground, and protected us and the revolution; it was these very people who routed the mini-groups, and these are the very people who brought world imperialism to its knees. All of our power and ability came from them. Yes, you must protect these people, and leave the way open to creativity and activity for them. The hope for the future is with them, not with those so-called specialists who have acquiesced to the East and the West, who still bow to the East and the West.

Import-Export Bill Enacted

After the pre-agenda speeches and after reading notices from the representatives, the first reading of the Import-Export Bill of 1364 [21 March 1985 – 20 March 1986] was presented and discussed. Jallaloddin Farsi and Muhaddi Sovoji spoke as opponent and advocate. An expert from the Commercial Affairs Commission and a representative from the government gave explanations concerning this bill.

At that time the entire 1364 Import-Export Bill was submitted to a vote and enacted.

Speech by the Representative of Chabahar

Another pre-agenda speech was given today by 'Abd ol-Karim Arbabi, representative of Chabahar. He said: The extensive presence of the people on the political and combative scene on 22 Bahman [Feb 11 1979] shows that no political trick can damage the will of this Muslim nation.

In another portion of his speech, the representative of Chabahar said: It is time to act on the desires and demands of the people, because we promised to bring about justice and eliminate oppression and discrimination.

With regard to the problems of his constituency, he thanked the Minister of Health and said: It is requested of the Plan and Budget Organization that construction of the sea wall at the Bandar Shahid Beheshti Docks be expedited, and in view of the increase of population in this municipality, some basic thinking must be done about procuring potable water for this municipality.

The border-dwelling people of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan are without the most basic facilities of life due to the limitless oppression and restrictions of those who acquiesced to the oppressive monarchical regime.

He then said: The arisen nation has taken effective steps to achieve the goals of the Islamic Republic. In order to put an end to the astonishing border trading, to cut off the hands of the professional smugglers, and to create necessary facilities, they have created a cooperative for the border-dwellers of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan.

He added: The random migration of the border areas is mainly due to the shortage of water, the failure to expand agriculture, the uncooperative atmosphere, the outrageous cost of general foodstuffs, the lack of facilities and employment, the lack of a codified and correct program for investment in fundamental matters and industry, and the failure to expand the roads in the villages and border areas.

The government must make the border cooperatives legally official, so that they can meet the area's legitimate demands. In order to realize the basic principles of the constitution, it appears necessary to create a basic teacher's college in Chabahar, and this school did exist previously. Five months into the academic year, the elementary schools in Barabad were without textbooks, and one of the teachers said that they sent 15 books for 30 students. The establishment of day and night guidance schools appears necessary. Due to the lack of a sea wall on the Bereym coasts, fishermen were unable to fish in summer. There is a shortage of boat motors and fish nets in the area.

At the conclusion of his speech he listed other needs in his constituency.

Speech by the Representative of Qomsheh

The last pre-agenda speech was given by Rahmatollah Rahmati. He said: As we enter the seventh year of the triumph of the revolution, the great and extensive participation of the Islamic nation of Iran delivered an indescribably splendid blow to the body of world imperialism, especially America, on 22 Bahman [11 Feb]. The enemies and opponents of the divine revolution of the Iranian nation made every effort to sow dissatisfaction among the country's believing population in order to carry out another plot. Sometimes ignorant people knowingly and unknowingly added grist to the enemy's vengeful mill.

In another part of his speech, Rahmati said: The Iranian nation will not submit so easily to imperialism's multifarious plots, which have brought about material and financial hardships.

With regard to the imposed war, he said: The fact that the war is our most important problem must be manifested in every dimension. The war must be evident in all the government's policy-making, and it must be palpable in the lives of the people of our society. It is necessary that most of the intellectual and scientific resources of the government's institutions be allocated to the war.

A wartime budget must be coordinated with the war, and the strengthening of the foundations of defense must be clearly evident in it.

The people must also refrain from excessive consumption; a flourishing market in luxury and non-necessary items is not becoming to a society whose fate is being decided in a war. The profit motive is an evil thing for people who are needed in any way by the people. If, God forbid, those who are needed by the people should try to abuse their position and fill their pockets and sabotage the affairs of the people instead of working more and providing better services, they must realize that what they do is clear treason against the religion, the nation, and the country, and that history will record their names in infamy.

He added: I call upon the respected Prime Minister to expedite the presentation of the ministers of Defense and of the Plan and Budget. In view of the importance of the Ministry of the Plan and Budget, a committed, passionate, original, and free-thinking administrator must be selected and presented to the Majlis.

With regard to steps that must be taken for laborers, he said: The first need is to create the necessary facilities for the growth of their religious, political, and social awareness. Other steps include the provision of the facilities and context for the growth of their technical and academic awareness. It is not fitting that a worker remain in the same position and rank from his first day on the job until retirement. On the job technical training is a great service not only to the

laborer, but to a country's economy; literacy training activity is the equivalent of a mother's service to the Iranian laborer. Unfortunately, today more than 50 percent of our laborers are illiterate, and this is a great problem for the Islamic republic.

For some time our laborers have been looking to the Islamic laws of labor, laws which do not consider a laborer as a tool in the service of machines, or a pawn from production to distribution in the service of consumption, laws which place the hours of work, the level of pay, the quality of work, and the relation between worker and supervisor in the framework of Islamic laws.

Addressing himself to the hard-working government, he discussed the Imam of the nation's message concerning the delegation of the people's work to the people. The feeling of ownership of work, production, and profit, and the harm arising from that in the private and cooperative sectors is something for which activating the worker can play a great role.

If the government wants to assume custody of the keys to capital investment and their management, it will become a great supervisor and gradually turn into a government of bosses. In such a climate, the people's abilities will be like a tool with no will in the service of the economy. On the other hand, if capital interests and the private sector take over the country's economy, the worker will become a tool in the service of the country's special capital interests. The country's economic system, as it says in the constitution, must be a mixture of government, private, and cooperative capital investment in the framework of Islamic laws.

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IRAN

DEPUTY INDUSTRY MINISTER EXPLAINS PROBLEMS, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Feb 85 pp 18, 19

[Text] In an exclusive interview with KEYHAN's economic service, Mohammad 'Ali Zaker, Deputy Minister of Industry for Planning, discussed problems with the country's industrial resources and steps taken by the Ministry of Industry to advance its goals for reducing dependence and achieving self-sufficiency. The text of the interview follows below.

In your view, what are the basic industries needed by the country, and what is the Ministry of Industry's policy for the growth and expansion of the country's industry?

When the Ministry of Industry was separated from the Ministry of Mines and Industry, the office for dealing with the leather and textile, food, electronic and electro-chemical, non-metallic metals, and metals industries became a part of the Ministry of Industry. After the triumph of the revolution, in order to reduce dependency and achieve self-sufficiency, the Ministry of Industry issued a series of agreements in principle; 70 percent of them were for the production of consumer goods, 4 percent were for capital goods, and the rest were for the production of intermediate goods.

Since the production of consumer goods is currently adequate, the Ministry of Industry has designed its policy to focus on intermediate goods, in order to reduce the country's dependence on outsiders. It must be mentioned that studies undertaken of the industrial and production units within its jurisdiction by insiders in this ministry show that these units are still dependent on outsiders, and the Ministry of Industry has an extensive program for reducing dependency and achieving self-sufficiency.

How many agreements in principle have been issued by the Ministry of Industry so far, and how many have been implemented?

Around 15,000 agreements in principle have been issued by the Ministry of Industry since the revolution, and permits to go into operation have been issued with 7,500 of these. It must be mentioned that 1,000 of these 7,500 agreements in principle were issued before the revolution. Two thousand of them have expired because they were not pursued by the applicants, and 4,200 others are now being implemented.

How does the Ministry of Industry deal with those who transfer their agreements in principle to others at the planning level, thereby gaining huge profits?

The transfer of agreements in principle at the planning level and before permits to go into operation are issued has been prohibited by the Ministry of Industry, and this is one of the conditions stipulated in the agreement in principle. If it is proven to the Ministry of Industry that an applicant has transferred an agreement in principle at the planning level, he will be dealt with severely and the agreement in principle will be void.

What plans does the Ministry of Industry have for removing the obstacles to agreements in principle, such as land, water, electricity, and so on?

One of the most important difficulties with implementing plans after the issuance of an agreement in principle is the problem of land, which unfortunately has not yet been decisively resolved. Last year the Ministry of Industry drew up a bill on the basis of which industrial villages would be established in various parts of the country in order to eliminate this problem. At the present time the industrial village company has begun operating in more than 70 cities and has achieved very useful results in this regard. They have been able to select suitable land for creating production and industrial units and to turn them over to applicants wishing to establish industrial units. What the industrial village company does in the cities is to procure water, electricity, and other services needed by production units after appropriate sites have been designated. The most active industrial village companies at the present time are in Esfahan, Mashhad, Tabriz, Kerman, and elsewhere. They are doing noteworthy work, but in some cases, due to the lack of resources and the inexperience of the industries, there are problems with land for establishing production and industrial units. God willing, these difficulties will be removed in time.

What provisions does the Ministry of Industry plan to make for those who do not need currency to establish production units? Will the affairs of such people be dealt with on a priority basis?

The Ministry of Industry issues agreements in principle to production and industrial units not in need of cash in view of the needs in the provinces. In this regard, a set of guidelines has been issued by the Ministry of Industry to the general provincial offices on the basis of which the general offices of industry in the provinces will themselves issue agreements in principle in such cases.

What program does the Ministry of Industry have for the growth of intermediate and capital industries?

As I have indicated, the Ministry of Industry's policy is deliberately centered on intermediate projects, due to the saturation of consumer goods. For example, in the second half of the current year [23 Sep 1984 – 20 March 1985], the Ministry of Industry has handled 305 projects, most of which are intermediate industries. It is necessary to note that the fixed capital investment for each of these projects averages 34 million tomans, and that the total currency needed for these 305 projects has been estimated at around 225 million dollars. When these projects go into operation and are utilized, around one billion dollars will be kept from leaving the country annually. These projects include 79 projects in non-metallic minerals, 77 projects in food industries, 52 projects in the chemical industries, 35 projects in textiles, 30 projects in light metals, 22 electrical and electronics projects, and 10 projects in cellulose industries. It is necessary to note that agreements in principle have not been issued for the above projects. Of course most of these projects have applicants who have now been stopped due to a shortage of currency. Whenever a project's applicant procures the funds needed for investment and the purchase of machinery the Ministry of Industry will issue an agreement in principle for that

project. Of course, in the next week or two the Ministry of Industry plans to publish in the newspapers a list of projects under consideration, showing the project's fixed investment, the place of installation, currency investment, and project capacity.

What steps has the Ministry of Industry taken to encourage the private sector to invest in industry and cut dependency?

More than 95 percent of the agreements in principle issued since the triumph of the Islamic revolution have gone to the private sector. The Ministry of Industry has faced no restrictions in this regard, and it will not face them in the future. It should be explained that the investment for 15,000 agreements in principle is around 70 billion tomans, with an average investment for each project of less than 5 million tomans, and this is an illustration of the private sector's participation in such projects. It must not be forgotten that when the problem with currency is solved, the private sector will certainly show a greater interest in investing.

On the basis of a set of guidelines from the Ministry of Industry, the issuance of agreements in principle to production units with more than 15 percent of their total assets in cash is prohibited. Since the country is in need of industries which are composed of more currency than this, what decision will the Ministry of Industry make?

In order to issue an agreement and create a production unit on the basis of the Ministry of Industry's guidelines a certain percentage of the construction materials for consumer and intermediate goods must be procured domestically. Accordingly, the required percentage of domestic raw materials for consumer goods is 90 percent; it is around 70 percent for intermediate goods. It is necessary to mention here that if some intermediate goods manufactured domestically have an added value of more than 35 percent, agreement will be granted for the production of those items. On the other hand, if a project lacks these qualifications but the production of that item will save the country a significant amount of currency (its production costs less than 50 percent of the price of the imported item), an agreement in principle for its production will also be issued. It must not be forgotten that the issuance of an agreement in principle occurs when the currency resources become available to the Ministry of Industry. The Ministry of Industry thus has 4,200 projects in hand, the implementation of which will require around 2.7 billion dollars. When the procurement of the currency needed for these projects is assured, agreements in principle will be issued for them.

Is the creation of production units in the remote and deprived provinces a priority for the private sector?

In order to raise the incomes of rural people and the people of our country's small and deprived provinces, the Ministry of Industry has allocated programs to our country's deprived and remote regions which have many applicants and also employ relatively simple technology. In this regard the Ministry of Industry has also made provisions so that if unauthorized production units in the provinces, and mostly in Tehran, move to deprived areas (provided, of course, that their products are needed in the area), they will receive the necessary assistance. In any case, all other things being equal, the Ministry of Industry will give priority to applicants who are prepared to establish their production units in deprived and remote areas in order to raise the incomes of the rural people and the people in small cities.

At the present time, which of the country's industrial sectors is capable of attracting the most investment?

The expansion of industry centers around industry within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry, due to extensive domestic natural resources such as oil and gas, metallic and non-metallic ores for the chemical and petrochemical industries, non metallic minerals, and textile materials. Of course, other industries such as electricity and electronics, food industries, and light metals industries also receive significant amounts of investment from the Ministry of Industry.

Explain the problems the Ministry of Industry has with the issuance of agreements in principle, and how this problem must be solved.

The most important problem the Ministry of Industry has with the issuance of agreements in principle is the shortage of currency. It is necessary for the Currency Allocation Committee to increase the Ministry of Industry's share of currency annually for at least two five-year periods. When the ministry's production units begin producing, imports into the country will decrease. In order for industry to grow in the country, it is also necessary, after production units begin producing, that currency previously allocated to them be made available again to the Ministry of Industry so that this ministry can build new production units in order to increase production and reduce dependence. Ultimately, after several years (about 10) the Ministry of Industry's share of currency, which must now increase steadily year after year in order to advance the goals of industry, can begin to decline as the production of consumer and intermediate goods needed by society is established.

Name the basic industries which are to be built in the future. How effective are such industries in building the country's economy?

The heavy industries are usually said to be the steel, petrochemical, Sar Cheshmeh copper and copper byproducts industries. In this regard, a project is being studied to expand the Esfahan iron foundry and to put the Mobarakeh Steel project into production, which is planned for the years 1366 [21 March 1987 – 20 March 1988] and 1367 [21 March 1988 – 20 March 1989]. Other plans being implemented include the Bandar Emam Khomeyni Petrochemical Complex, which will save more than a billion dollars in imported raw materials every year when it goes into production. The Sar Cheshmeh Copper Complex and the copper byproducts industries may also be considered basic industries which will be profitably used in the future to reduce dependence and achieve self-sufficiency. Other projects being implemented include a project to expand the Arak Automobile Plant and to convert it to a factory for building construction machinery for the Tabriz Automobile Plant. It is necessary to mention here that if industries in the country such as the automobile, petrochemical, and steel industries are strengthened, most of the country's dependence on outsiders would be eliminated.

With the issuance of agreements in principle after the triumph of the revolution and diverting unallocated capital to the production sector, to what extent is the country dependent on outsiders?

In view of the issuance of agreements in principle for the production of consumer and intermediate goods, in the future around 1.2 billion dollars in currency should be saved annually, and this is a relatively positive step towards the expansion of industry.

With regard to the Ministry of Industry's responsibility in the short, mid, and long terms, in what direction will the country's industries go?

According to plans which the Ministry of Industry is implementing, consumer goods will be produced in the short term, intermediate goods will be produced in the mid term, and capital goods will be produced over the long term. It is over that long term that dependence by the country's

industries will be minimized with the procurement of industrial raw materials. I must mention that we think the expansion of industry must basically revolve around the chemical and petrochemical industries. For example, the country's annual export of crude oil is now at around 20 billion dollars. If, in the pattern of expanding the country's industry, we can export petroleum byproducts in the future instead of crude oil and triple the price of the petroleum products, we will have an annual foreign exchange income of 60 billion dollars.

What steps has the Ministry of Industry taken in the area of the export of production goods?

At the present time the export of goods is coordinated among the Ministries of Industry and Commerce and the Council of Ministers, and if this policy expands, the way will be opened in the future for the non-metallic mineral and petrochemical industries. It must not be forgotten that at the present time products such as knitted goods, rice cookers, detergents, compote and others are being exported, and we are hoping that such exports will increase in the future.

What steps has the Ministry of Industry taken for the growth of rural industries?

Rural industries must mainly rely on the agricultural and animal husbandry industries. In this regard, the Ministry of Industry has taken the necessary steps. The Ministry of Industry has issued permits in many villages for the establishment of industries to process agricultural products, producing things such as tomato paste, compote, fruit juice, macaroni, and others. In this regard it must be noted that it is the Ministry of Industry's policy that industries processing agricultural products be established only in the villages, and to prevent the establishment of such industries in the cities, especially the big cities.

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IRAN

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CENTRAL BANK ON ECONOMY, INFLATION

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Feb 85 p 22

[Text] The country's economic and financial situation, the rapid reduction in the currency in circulation, and the rate of inflation all point to the fact that at the beginning of the seventh year of the victory of the Islamic revolution and when the Islamic Republic of Iran has been directly involved in an imposed war for five years, it has been able to maintain internal coordination under such conditions.

The above was announced by Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Director General of the Central Bank, in a press conference for foreign and domestic correspondents. At the conclusion of his talk he answered questions from correspondents.

According to KEYHAN's economic correspondent, Dr Nurbakhsh began by saying:

The country's fixed gross capital has grown from 9.9 percent in 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983] to 39 percent in 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984]. The growth in the gross national product has also increased from a rate of 15.1 percent in 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983] to an equivalent of 13.5 percent in 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984]. The non-petroleum industries, housing and commerce make up the bulk of this growth. In the area of controlling currency in circulation, I must say that the growth of currency in circulation was around 24 percent in 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983], 17.4 percent in 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984], and 1.2 percent in the first eight months of 1363 [21 March – 21 October 1984], which illustrates an extremely rapid decline in currency in circulation, and due to these changes in the currency in circulation, inflation has decreased 19.2 percent in 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983], 17.7 percent in 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984], and 11.9 percent in the first eight months of 1363 [21 March – 21 October 1984].

Overall, it may be said that the economic parameters show that the country's economy has been able to deal effectively with the wartime conditions dominating the economy, and in comparison with similar countries when they have been at war, the Islamic republic has had striking circumstances purely on the basis of the help, support, and participation of the people in solving the government's problems, which was for the purpose of preserving and maintaining the country's activities, and neutralizing the destructive effects of the war, especially in the area of prices, and overall to integrate the country's economy with the special circumstances of the war so that the situation can be maintained for a long time if the war continues.

The preservation of the balance of payments belies the rumor of cancellations of commercial currency contracts.

Dr Nurbakhsh was asked a question by one of the correspondents concerning the necessity for Iran to deal in compensations and the rumor about the cancellation of commercial currency contracts. He answered: With regard to foreign trade, our policy in general is to preserve the balance of payments, and various mechanisms are used in order to attain this objective in cases where there is full agreement on the volume of purchases with trading partners. Agreements are more detailed in other cases and are made within the framework of the exchange of compensations. We believe that in view of our country's relative large purchasing power, it is meaningless for this power to be merely onesided and not be used in the service of balancing payments. Therefore, purchases are made from countries who buy from us in turn. He said: We vigorously deny the revocation of commercial currency credit; there is absolutely no such thing. Credit will be granted according to procedures, and credit will be authorized for new purchases in accordance with the conditions above; there are no restrictions. The only restriction is that the balance of payments must be maintained. There are no special restrictions for 1363 [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985], but there is policy which has existed since 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983], and which was also in force last year.

Currency Reserves, Reduction of Currency in Circulation

A Japanese correspondent asked him about the country's currency reserve situation, the probable difficulties with the new banking system, and ways to reduce currency in circulation. He said: The country's currency reserve situation makes a good support for necessary expenses under circumstances we are facing. With regard to the problems with the new banking system, there is the problem of educating and acquainting the people with the new system, which just takes time. The people have been even more receptive than we expected. Ways to decrease the currency in circulation include controlling government expenses, payment of private goods such as gold coins, and controlling credit in the banking system (consumer loans). This policy has enabled us to cut the growth of currency in circulation from 17 percent to 1.8 percent in the first eight months of 1363 [21 March – 21 October 1984]. He was then asked a question by a correspondent from AL-RA'Y AL-'AM concerning workers' strikes. He said: Fortunately, we have no workers' strikes, but the problem of inflation and reducing purchases is a reality. One of the simplest solutions to reduce the heavy burden of inflation from those with fixed incomes is to increase salaries and stipends, but we cannot recommend this under these circumstances. With a victory over the enemy in the imposed war, however, conditions will be easier for these people. They must therefore serve and support the revolution and fight the Ba'thist enemy. Of course, just as the above figures show, the government has succeeded in controlling inflation.

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IRAN

MUSAVI INAUGURATES PRODUCTION LINE IN BANDAR 'ABBAS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Feb 85 pp 1, 3

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas—KEYHAN local and mobile correspondents—Prime Minister Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, while commemorating the ten Fajr holy days and the seventh Spring of Freedom, visited Bandar 'Abbas yesterday at dawn in order to see the people of the Province of Hormozgan and to inspect the Thermal Power Station and the Martyr Raja'i Shipping Dock.

The Prime Minister was met at the airport by the Friday Imam, the Imam's representative, representatives of the Assembly of Experts and the Majlis, the Ministers of Roads and Transportation and Justice, clergymen, military and police commanders and other officials.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by the Minister of Power and the Imam's son, went among the people after ceremonies at the airport. He responded to expressions of feeling by the warm-blooded Gulf people who had been awaiting his arrival for hours on the boulevard along the Gulf.

Before this gathering of people, he gave a talk in which he discussed the process of the Islamic revolution.

The Prime Minister analyzed the oppressive 2,500-year monarchical government in Iran and the influence of foreigners in Islamic nations. He said: America was once able to dominate the Islamic nations, first by removing the elements of resistance, Islam foremost among them. It belittled the people of these nations while making use of their resources. Even outside our borders, when we read books written in the West, they always refer to the governments and civilizations of the third world as second hand.

With regard to the importance of the Islamic revolution, the Prime Minister said in another portion of his speech: This revolution was not only important because it removed America's hand from our nation; it also made other countries realize that the superpowers can do nothing to oppose the will of nations. The most important accomplishment of the revolution was the removal of fear of the superpowers from the hearts of nations. When the fear of idols vanishes, a human being is free, and can return to his own values and culture.

Referring to America's fear of the Islamic revolution, the Prime Minister said: Why should America fear Iran's relations with Latin America? Why should America shed crocodile tears for the countries of the Gulf, and make them fear the Islamic revolution? The reason is that the Islamic revolution tells everyone to be themselves and return to their own culture, and that the superpowers must be cut out of this area.

He also added: Reagan has proclaimed that they have vital interests in the area. What are these vital interests? Reagan's vital interests are the limitless resources of the Islamic countries and the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf area. This is why their ships are a few steps away from the Strait of Hormoz. The reason they have been unable to attack yet, however, is that they see a united nation before them. This is a lesson for nations, and we have constantly proclaimed our desire to unite with the Islamic nations.

In conclusion, Mir Hoseyn Musavi referred to human rights. He said: I am surprised that Human Rights never pays a visit to America's Harlem, and that it never denounces the racism that rules America.

After completing his speech and reviewing the area's armed forces and mobilization, the Prime Minister and his entourage went to the Bandar 'Abbas Thermal Power Station. While inspecting these installations, he went to the power station commander's office and inaugurated one of the power station's production lines. He then went to the great Martyr Raja'i Shipping Dock of Bandar 'Abbas and inspected various components of it.

This outstanding complex, which has outstanding technology and importance for an installation of its kind because of the volume of freight loaded and unloaded there, was built with more than 70 billion rials in credit and has an area of almost 2,500 hectares.

The existence of 22 docks with a total length of 4,900 meters, a 19-kilometer railroad, and a 5,100-meter sea wall give it a very high capacity for loading and unloading freight, so that in its first stage of operation it was able to accommodate 40,000-ton ships. It delivers goods to various points with notable speed and aids in the development of the country's economy.

At 6:15 p.m. yesterday Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi left Bandar 'Abbas for Tehran, having concluded his one-day journey. The Prime Minister and his entourage were escorted at the airport by Majlis representatives of the people of Bandar 'Abbas and Minab, the public prosecutor, and a representative of the Governor-General.

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IRAN

DEPUTY MINISTER DETAILS IRON ORE RESERVE CONDITION

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Feb 85 p 30

[Tehran] The status of iron ore reserves needed for the country's steel manufacturing and also to reduce dependence in this area was discussed in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN's economic correspondent by Engineer Hoseyn Naji, Deputy Minister for Ferrous Metals in the Ministry of Mines and Metals and acting director of the National Iranian Steel Company.

Engineer Naji prefaced his remarks by invoking the name of God, recalling to mind the esteemed martyrs, and sending greetings to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Iron ore and coal comprise the bulk of the raw materials required for the manufacture of steel. With regard to iron ore, the country's steel industry is not dependent on outsiders, and only a small part of the coal required for steel manufacturing is imported. We are hoping to make the country's steel industry 100 percent self-sufficient by procuring additional supplies of coal within the country. He noted: Self-sufficiency and economic and industrial independence for the country is not an easy matter unless the country's natural resources and raw materials are used in a desirable way. It is necessary to mention that the foundation for industrial self-sufficiency in any country is that country's steel industry, which must be given attention.

Continuing his remarks, Naji referred to the country's existing iron ore reserves. He said: Fortunately, the iron ore reserves which have been identified in the country are very promising, so that in the area of the central plateau of Iran, which has been called the central iron mine, almost two billion tons of iron ore reserves have been identified. The Chegharat sector of this area has been being mined for years, with an annual capacity of three million tons. It provides all of Esfahan's iron ore needs. It is to be noticed that the Chegharat area has more than 180 million tons of iron ore assayed at 59 percent and is considered one of the world's best iron ore deposits. He added: Another rich iron ore deposit in the vicinity of Bafq is in the Chador Molukeh area; 400 million tons of iron ore assayed at 55 percent have been identified there, and their utilization will meet most of the country's steel manufacturing needs. Another area with iron deposits which must be mentioned is the Narigan area.

In addition to the iron ore reserves mentioned above, the Gol-e Gowhar area must be mentioned, where 180 million tons of iron ore have been identified and the extraction of 2.7 to three million tons of iron ore annually is planned. Work on putting this mine into operation is proceeding rapidly, and we hope, after solving the project's problems with credit, to make use of the deposits in a desirable way, thereby procuring the iron ore needed for the Mobarakeh and Ahvaz steel plants.

It is necessary to explain that prior to the establishment of the new plants a significant amount of iron ore could be exported annually from the Sangan mines. Another program is also being studied that will enable Sangan area ores to be transferred to Ahvaz by rail. He noted: In view of the deprivation of the areas mentioned (the central plateau, Gol-e Gowhar and Sangan), development activity in these areas will be accompanied by economic, cultural, and other kinds of growth. We hope that through the desirable utilization of the areas mentioned, there will be more changes and economic growth in such deprived areas as this.

Continuing his remarks, Engineer Naji discussed iron ore imports from India, and the agreement that the regime of the idolaters made in this regard with the Indian government. He said: Before the triumph of the Islamic revolution a contract was signed between Iran and India for the annual importation of 7.5 million tons of iron ore from India's Kudarmukh area, assayed at less than 40 percent. On the basis of that agreement, India obtained a loan of 630 million dollars from Iran.

After the triumph of the Islamic revolution, with changes in the country's steel manufacturing plans and the transfer of the Bandar 'Abbas plant to Mobarakeh of Esfahan, 2.5 million tons of ore have been subtracted from that 7.5 million tons. The remaining five million tons, which were earmarked for the Ahvaz Steel Plant, are not being used because gondola construction assembly lines one and two have not gone into operation. An agreement will be made with the government of India with regard to this. I will add that overall Iran's steel industries will not need to import this raw material with the existence of domestic iron ore deposits and reserves, so that overall 16 million tons of iron ore can be extracted from the three areas Chegharat, Gol-e Gowhar, and Chador Molukeh, which is enough to meet the country's domestic needs.

9310
CSO: 4640/393

IRAN

COUNTRY TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN STEEL CABLE MANUFACTURING

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 85 p 19

[Text] The Malayer Industrial Factories Company is one of the companies affiliated with the Bank of Industry and Mines which is operated under the supervision of a board of directors chosen by this bank. The construction site for the factory is in the Municipality of Malayer, and its products are summarized below.

Polypropylene synthetic ropes

Polypropylene agricultural bailing and binding cord

Fence mesh

Steel cable (towing)

Spun wires and strands

Growth Trend in Production

The year 1363 [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985] was one of the most fruitful years for the Malayer Industrial Factories Company, in which the maturation of its various units, in view of the increase in the volume of production and the desirable quality of the products produced, was a special enhancement for domestic industries.

In the current year [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985] cable production has increased 60 percent over the previous year, and has increased more than five times over the level of the year 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983]. At the present time cables with six- to 36-millimeter metallic and synthetic cores are being marketed, and we hope to be able, through the grace of God and this production unit's planning, to organize development projects so that cable will no longer be imported into the country.

These cables are mostly used for cranes, elevators, drilling for water and oil wells, ships, and trucks and trailers (for fastening and mooring freight). At the present time this type of cable is being used by the Ministry of Petroleum, the Ministry of Defense, the revolutionary guard, the iron industry, the reconstruction crusade, the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, and all other government and private factories.

The synthetics unit's production includes agricultural cord for reapers and feed and synthetic cords. It showed more than a 70 percent increase in the years 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] and 1363 [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985] over the year 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983]. With regard to the quality of the products of the synthetics unit it must be mentioned that last year England offered to buy this company's synthetic cord, and steps were even taken to export the cord, but it ultimately proved unfeasible because of the needs of the maritime industries, the Islamic Republic Fisheries Company, and especially industries working in relation to the imposed war, while at the same time agricultural cords produced from this same substance, which has a very desirable quality, lacked a suitable domestic market because of haphazard importation.

Production of fence mesh built by this company increased six percent in the current year over the year 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983] and it doubled over the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984]. This mesh, which is produced in widths of one to four meters, is offered either plated or galvanized. It is used for fencing farms, gardens, parks, exercise grounds, and military and water and power installations. It is to be noted that this company is the only producer of PVC fortified mesh.

At the cable-winding unit of the Malayer Industrial Factories, which was recently put into experimental operation through the efforts of Iranian workers and staff, various wires and wound cables for concrete reinforcement are produced according to the latest international standards. This unit is the only one of its kind in Iran and makes use of very advanced technology. It is necessary to mention that until the installation of a board of directors chosen by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, no positive step of any kind had been taken to start this unit operating, but through the grace of the Almighty and the unstinting support of the Bank of Industries and Mines, the complex problems of this unit were solved in a relatively short time. It is hoped that in the first six months of 1364 [21 March – 23 September 1985] the products of this unit, including four-to eight-millimeter wound wire and eight-, 9.5-, and 12.7-millimeter wound cable, will be offered on the consumer market and our dear country will no longer have need of foreign sources in this regard.

Company Pricing and Sales Policy

In view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of stabilizing the prices of industrial products, this company also sells its products on the basis of the most recent decision by the Center for the Study of Prices. In order to prevent the appearance of a black market for the company's production goods, the company's products are sold only through cooperatives. Of course, the Army of the Islamic Republic, the revolutionary guards, the reconstruction crusade, and the other government organizations are exempt from this rule and may obtain the goods they need through direct contact.

At the same time, all production companies which use this company's products in some way may take steps to purchase the products they need by submitting sufficient documentation.

Work Done on Conveniences for Employees

The establishment of consumer and residential cooperative companies in the factory, the establishment of a housing cooperative for workers in the central office, the operation of a cafeteria for factory workers, and the provision of necessity loans are among the conveniences provided under government management.

Number of Workers

At the present time there are more than 177 employees in the Malayer Industrial Factories Company, which is more than a 40 percent increase over the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984].

It is necessary to note that when the government board of directors began its work in Bahman of 1360 [21 Jan – 19 Feb 1981] this company only had 38 employees. This number has gradually increased to the figure mentioned above with the activation of various sections of the factory and the addition of production shifts.

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IRAN

FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY TO HELP BUILD MILLION COMPRESSOR UNITS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 85 p 19

[Text] The Iran Compressor Manufacturing Company employs skilled and experienced Iranians to make various kinds of refrigerator and freezer compressors needed by the country's refrigerator factories; in 1365 [21 March 1986 – 20 March 1987] it will meet society's needs with an annual production of one million compressors.

Hatemi, the acting director of the Iran Compressor Manufacturing Company, told KEYHAN how this goal will be achieved. He said:

The Iran Compressor Manufacturing Company was built in the city of Alborz (Qazvin) in 1348 [21 March 1969 – 20 March 1970] to produce compressors needed for the manufacture of domestic refrigerators and freezers, with participation from the industrial and mining expansion bank (Bank of Industry and Mines), the Plan and Budget Organization, the Westinghouse Company and a number of refrigerator factories, with an annual capacity of 250,000 compressors, and it has been marketing its products since 1352 [21 March 1973 – 20 March 1974].

In view of the country's daily increasing need for refrigerator compressors, it has been decided to establish a new unit with an annual capacity of one million compressors.

Contract Signed

On the basis of this decision, the Iran Compressor Manufacturing Company negotiated with several of the world's renowned compressor manufacturing companies, and the Niki Company of Italy, which markets a good compressor, was finally selected to procure the technology, and a contract for constructing a factory with an annual production capacity of one million compressors was signed with this company.

Type and Capacity of Products

With regard to the type and capacity of the factory's products, Hatemi said: 1/8- to 1/4-horsepower compressors will be produced, and a type of compressor has been chosen that is suitable for Iran's climate and electrical power, so that they will operate well even in the temperate regions of southern Iran.

Company Capital Investment Level

With regard to the company's capital investment and the role of the Bank of Industry and Mines in procuring financial resources needed, the acting director said: The company's capital investment is 611 million rials; 99.99 percent of these shares belong to the Bank of Industry and Mines, which is the company's primary financier. The bank has already loaned the company around a million rials. The bank has also authorized a loan for 3.2 million rials for the expansion project, which will be gradually made available to the company as work progresses for the expansion project.

Expansion Project

The acting director discussed the company's expansion project and the level of its utilization when it goes into operation. He said: The company's expansion project, at an estimated cost of 2.5 million rials, is now being carried out, and will include 25,000 square meters of basic and supplementary construction, which is now being done by contractors with the consultation and supervision of industrial consulting engineers. The cost of construction, setup, and grounds preparation operations will be 1.6 million rials, and construction will be completed in early 1365 [21 March 1986 – 20 March 1987].

The cost of machinery for the project will be about 3.5 million rials. The necessary steps for ordering the machinery have been completed already, and the process of ordering machinery from manufacturers will soon begin. All of the machinery is scheduled to be delivered during 1365 [21 March 1986 – 20 March 1987] and will be gradually installed and prepared for operation.

In order to carry out this great expansion project, the company is now making use of the technical services of experienced and specialized Iranian engineers, technicians, and workers now working in the present factory.

In view of the self-sufficiency program, and on the basis of the contract signed between the Niki Company and the compressor manufacturing company, 100 percent of the technical knowledge required for building the compressors in Iran has been made available to the company; 90 percent of the units will be built in the company's factory and the rest will be built by domestic manufacturers.

There are now 533 people, including workers and specialists, who are turning the factory's active wheels of production; after the completion of the expansion project the number of persons employed will increase to 1,500.

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IRAN

CERAMIC PRODUCTION TO BE INCREASED TO 700,000 SQUARE METERS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 85 p 19

[Text] With implementation of the expansion project, the Alborz Ceramic Factory's production will increase from 300,000 to 400,000 square meters of ceramics, and will ultimately reach 700,000 square meters.

In announcing this, the director of the Alborz Ceramics Company added: Preliminary studies for setting up production lines and the relevant machinery have been made, and we are now at the contract-signing stage. He noted: The selection of a production line is such that it conforms to the country's needs, and at the same time the costs of finished products is reduced while equalling the level of today's advanced technology. This is to enable us to provide more service to the consumer as well as to take steps towards meeting all the needs of the consumer market. The company director added: The utilization of the factory will begin in 1365 [21 March 1986 – 20 March 1987], and of course the cooperation of the Bank of Industry and Mines and other pertinent organizations has a great effect on the implementation of our goals. Capital investment for the Alborz factory is 700 million, and includes the purchase of machinery, the construction of buildings and installations, as well as rotating capital. Continuing his remarks, the company director added: The successful continuation of this company's work depends on the implementation of this project, because the Alborz Ceramics Factory has been in continuous operation for 10 years. Its machinery is wearing out and basic repair is thus a necessary and inevitable matter. Of course, it must not be forgotten that steps have been taken to the extent possible for the repair of machinery and improving the quality of work.

Measures Taken by Directors

With regard to the steps taken by the directors chosen by the bank, he said: At the outset responsibilities were not defined in the company. Now, in the management system, all responsibilities as well as specification of duties and delegation of authority have been stipulated at the various levels, so that, unlike in the past, the company's workers are no longer dependent on individuals and work will not stop when a director changes. The classification of worker jobs in the company has been vigorously pursued, and expectations are that the regulations will be completed by the end of the new year [20 March 1986].

Problems

The company director then discussed the company's problems and difficulties. He said: The factory's spray dryer section is not in good condition, and steps must be taken quickly to replace it. Under the expansion project, a new spray dryer can satisfactorily service our two units. It is

of course necessary to mention that we face difficulties in the procurement of spare parts and supplies both domestically and abroad. I should mention that the parts we need cannot be obtained at the official price, and on the one hand the time required to obtain parts is so long that sometimes work comes to a standstill.

25 Million Rials Increased Capital

With regard to this the director said: Due to damage done, the company went bankrupt, and the Bank of Industry and Mines was able to save the company from bankruptcy by capitalizing some assets, so that in the year 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983] we had around 25 million rials in additional capital. Other assistance from the bank included the selection of a board of directors, all of whom are experts and skilled workers in this field. The Bank of Industry and Mines owns 99.8 percent of the company's shares.

Training Prior to Implementation of the Plan

With regard to worker training, the director of the company said: For the best possible implementation of the expansion project, attention was given to the matter of personnel training. At the beginning of the current year [21 March 1984] a number of employees were presented to the Industrial Management Organization; plans have also been made to send a group from the factory abroad for technical training.

Production Level of Construction Ceramics

Current production of construction ceramics and floor tiles is around 1.5 square meters, while the country needs 2.5 million square meters of products of this type. Increased population will double this figure to five million square meters, and this shortage can be met with proper planning, especially expansion programs.

Procurement of Raw Materials

With regard to sources and the manner of procurement of raw materials for the factory, the director said: Around 95 percent of the raw materials needed are available in Iran, and the rest, including colors and chemical substances, we must obtain abroad.

Financial Condition of Company

After the triumph of the revolution the Alborz Ceramic company began to show a profit as a result of two factors, an improved market and the withdrawal of foreign competitors. The company's financial condition is also satisfactory, so that in the current year we have paid 240 million rials of the company's debt to the Bank of Industry and Mines, and it is hoped that by the end of the current year [20 March 1985] all of the company's debt will be amortized. The Alborz Ceramic Factory is now continuing its economic mission to the limit of its resources and capacity. Company officials consider this situation the result of the around the clock efforts of employees and the unstinting guidance and support of the Bank of Industry and Mines.

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IRAN

BRIEFS

MINISTER INSPECTS IRAN-MADE SHIP—Bushehr—KEYHAN correspondent—Engineer Behzad Nabavi, Minister of Heavy Industry, Javad Ranganeh, Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade, along with deputy ministers of heavy industry, representatives of the Majlis and members of the Industry Commission and the Plan and Budget Organization visited Bushehr and were met at the airport by officials from the governor-general's office, Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani, the Imam's representative and the Friday Imam of Bushehr, and other officials. The Minister of Heavy Industry and the Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade then went to the Bushehr maritime industries factories and inspected their various components. The acting director of maritime industries then gave a report on the activities of these industries. A landing craft was then launched by the father of a martyr. Our correspondent reports that this ship is capable of landing at any kind of coastline. Its motor was built by compatriots in Tabriz, and its other parts were built in Bushehr, and it measures up to international standards. The same report states that the Minister of Heavy Industry and the Minister of the Reconstruction Crusade then left Bushehr for Bandar 'Abbas. Bandar 'Abbas—KEYHAN correspondent—Engineer Behzad Nabavi, Minister of Heavy Industry, leading a delegation of officials from this ministry as well as members of the Majlis Industry Commission, visited Bandar 'Abbas to inspect operations in the Persian Gulf Shipbuilding Industries, as well as to study the basis for the project to construct a ship repair facility, and in connection with this project's budget, credit, and completion. He was met at this city's airport by a number of political, social, military, and police officials from Hormozgan. According to this report, Engineer Nabavi and his colleagues visited the Persian Gulf Shipbuilding Industries, water desalination plants, and Bandar 'Abbas' high-capacity dock, and studied the activities of these industries. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Feb 85 p 8]

CSO: 4640/408

PAKISTAN

LETTER WRITER OPPOSED AWARD FOR KISSINGER

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 14 Feb 85 pp 3,4

[Text] Patriotic Pakistanis are aghast at the bestowal of Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam by the President of Pakistan at a special ceremony held, of all places, at the National Defence College, Rawalpindi.

This award could not have been given for services rendered in the 1965 war as Dr. Kissinger at that time was a nonentity in the corridors of power.

On the other hand, if the award was given as a tribute to his services rendered in the 1971 war, then Dr. Kissinger is getting the wrong award from the wrong country. Why? To begin with, Kissinger himself had admitted in his autobiographical book "The White House Years" that he had told the Indian Leaders in 1971 to allow the processes (of evolution) to continue and East Pakistan would emerge as an independent State by the spring of 1972. Indian leaders were assured that American and Indian interests in East Pakistan were not incongruent.

We also have the minutes of the three secret conferences of the National Security Council's Washington Special Action Group released by columnist Jack Anderson, clearly proving that as early as December 5, 1971, the United States had started talking in terms of Bangladesh as a nation.

Also at a meeting on December 6, with Dr. Henry Kissinger in the chair, Richard Helms, Director CIA, had expressed his opinion that "....the Indians will attempt to force a decision in East (Pakistan) within the next 10 days". This is exactly how it happened, the Eastern Command surrendering on December 16 in Dhaka. Experts in the State Department, the Pentagon, and the CIA had arrived at the clear-cut conclusion that India would win in the event of a war breaking out on the sub-continent. All that the powerful Washington Special Action Group concerned itself with during the 14 fateful days, from December 3, 1971, till the surrender in Dhaka on the 16th, was to maintain a posture of visible sympathy towards Pakistan. In another conference held on December 5, 1971, Dr. Kissinger said that "the only move left for us at the present time is to make clear our position relative to our greater strategy. Everyone knows how all this will come out and everyone knows that India will ultimately occupy East Pakistan."

Dr. Kissinger continued that "It was important that we register our position. The exercise in the UNO is likely to be an exercise in futility in as much as the Soviets can be expected to veto. The U.N. will, in all probability, do little to terminate the war.....there was no chance in getting anything useful in the U.N."

It must, however, be said to the credit of Dr. Henry Kissinger that he had not betrayed Pakistan's interest alone. He had duped his own President. Here is a verbatim extract from the minutes of the Special Washington Action Group meeting dated December 4, 1971.

"Dr. Kissinger said that whoever was putting our background information relative to the current situation is provoking Presidential wrath. The President is under the 'illusion' that he is giving instruction, not that he is merely being kept apprised of affairs as they progress. Dr. Kissinger asked that this be kept in mind."

The betrayal by Kissinger where Pakistan was concerned was absolute and complete. But it does not mean that Dr. Kissinger does not deserve a medal for the role he played in the 1971 war. He does, not one but two medals--the Padma Bhushan from Delhi and Sonar Bagla medal from Dhaka.

Be that as it may, there is one country which should be honoured by us all in Pakistan for the consistant support of Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistan wars in contrast to that of our other allies. On December 16, 1965, China issued an ultimatum to India to dismantle within three days 'all the military works for aggression' on the Chinese side of the Sino-Sikkim border or in the event of non-compliance, to bear full responsibility for the consequences. Simultaneously it ordered troop mobilisation. The point is that in 1965 China meant business and it was our own President's willingness, perhaps under U.S. pressure, or due to lack of confidence in himself as a soldier to fight a prolonged war with India, that prevented China from taking an even stronger stance.

In 1971, however, Russia had taken care of the Chinese threat to India by deploying 25 additional divisions--most of them mechanised along its border with the People's Republic.

This, combined with the fact that despite its sympathy for Islamabad, China could not bring itself to be involved in a civil war in a friendly country. The Chinese, therefore, made it clear that it would not come to Pakistan's help. What is more, President Yahya Khan knew it, his Foreign Office knew it; his General Staff knew it, Pakistan's Ambassador to Peking, a Bengali, who was permitted to retain that position of trust throughout the crisis, knew it.

Prof. G. W. Chaudhry in his book, 'Last Days of United Pakistan', maintains that he had read the messages sent by the Chinese leaders to President Yahya, pleading for restraint and urging him to find a rational solution to the crisis and avoid war with India. A message to this effect was publicly

conveyed to Mr. Bhutto, in Peking, when he was sent there by President Yahya to secure Chinese help in the imminent confrontation with India. Lt-Gen. Gul Hasan, Air Marshal Rahim Khan and Real Admiral Rasheed were the other members of the delegation.

The Chinese Government consistently advised President Yahya to find a peaceful solution to Pakistan's internal problems. In unmistakable terms, the Chinese leaders warned Gen Yahya in face-to-face meetings during his November 1970 visit to Peking that 'outside forces' were at work in East Pakistan aiming at eventual secession. By this time, President Yahya had also been bluntly told by Pakistan in May 1969, that the Soviet Union would not tolerate Pakistan's friendship with China and the Soviet Union at the same time. To Gen. Yahya's query on Russia's simultaneous friendship with India and Pakistan, the retort was--'What is possible for a superpower, is not possible for smaller Powers."

Have we, for Allah's sake, learnt, even at our own cost, from the turbulent and chequered history of Pakistan the simple lesson that what is possible for a super-Power, is not possible for smaller Powers, Particularly when the super-Power happens to be a neighbour?--Col. S. G. Mehdi, Sind Club, Karachi.

CSO: 4600/312

PAKISTAN

COUNTRY SAID 'INSECURE' OVER SALE OF MIG-29'S TO INDIA

GF011230 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "MiG-29's for India!"]

[Excerpts] According to reports received from New Delhi, the Soviet Union will begin supplying MiG-29's to India by the middle of this year. The pilots of the Indian Air Force have already gone to the Soviet Union for training. The aircraft are said to be identical to the U.S.-made F-16's. These are being sent due to the Soviet Union's preferential treatment of India because these aircraft have not yet been given to the Soviet Air Force or even to the Warsaw Pact allies of the Soviet Union.

Such close and deep ties between India and the Soviet Union do not need explanation. All kinds of sophisticated and long-range armaments have been stockpiled in India in the past few years, far exceeding the legitimate military needs of a big and quite safe country such as India. Pakistan feels justified in feeling insecure about this state of affairs. In order to divert attention from their large-scale military preparations and to give a false impression to the people of the world, India has initiated a campaign of vehement and vociferous protest against the limited supply of F-16's to Pakistan, which have been sold by the United States to Pakistan in the wake of the Soviet Union's blatant expansionist usurpation of Afghanistan (on the basis of commercial credit rates).

India's whining is part of its habit and mentality, and is part of its policy to stockpile modern armaments and keep up a litany against a limited consignment of arms in Pakistan.

With the change of leadership in India and the coming into power of Rajiv Gandhi, the United States has begun to woo India in an optimistic manner. In order to balance the Soviet Union's tilt toward India, it has also begun to exert greater pressure on Pakistan to normalize relations with India. This is a discussion separate from whether or not the United States will be successful and what the Soviet Union will do to avert it. However, the United States has reiterated its previous offer of not only being willing to sell all kinds of arms to India but also of helping it with the technology for their indigenous manufacture. The U.S. efforts to get close to India is not a new phenomenon. In fact, it has always preferred India from among the countries of the area. But the basic question is: Will the Soviet Union permit such a change

in policy? The Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Mr Vitaliy Smirnov has openly and challengingly stated that Soviet-Indian ties are invincible and that the United States can never drive a wedge despite all its efforts. The Soviet envoy's challenge does not seem to be an idle boast, because although it is chairman of the nonaligned movement, India continues its unflinching support and loyalty for the aggressive Soviet occupation of an independent nonaligned country such as Afghanistan. This is obvious to all.

It is necessary for Pakistan to set its house in order and to accelerate the process of promoting internal national unity so that India's aggressive aspirations can be foiled and so that Pakistan can safely counteract whatever situation arises out of India's ties with the Soviet Union or the United States, and so Pakistan can defend its own sovereignty and independence.

CSO: 4656/92

PAKISTAN

LANDLORDS' CONCILIATORY POLICY MAY NOT HOLD SOLUTION FOR SIND

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 2 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Change in the Attitude of the Landlords in Sind"]

[Text] The landlords in Sind who at times appeared to have taken an irreversible stand against the government for representing Sind now seem to be bent on changing their political allegiance. Now the same people who some time ago staged a surprisingly effective democratic drama for MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] agitation in the urban areas of the interior of Sind will now be presenting a totally new and opposite political drama. Among them will also be those who seek to enter government service and the cabinet. In this connection, Mr Jatoi's conciliatory tone was most startling, and from this it was clear that the big landlords of Sind want an honorable political reconciliation and not a political war and that they look upon the negative attitude and policy of abandonment of the MRD as a meaningless approach incapable of opening the way to a political process. Though the 1984 referendum was not confirmed by the landlords and people of Sind, yet nowhere in Sind was there any demonstration against it even of a very insignificant nature. If this silence cannot be taken as an indication of at least partial willingness on the part of the landlords, it was certainly an open declaration that they were not prepared to pursue a policy of confrontation or in any way take a step in this direction, even though Sind was MRD's heaven of thoughts and dreams embodying rebellion, open demonstration and protest. At the time of the referendum, expressions of fiery and bloody rebellion and demonstrations were expected in Sind, which was the heaven of MRD's thoughts and dreams for such actions. But these vain hopes did not materialize and not only was there peace and order in Sind during the referendum but there were also no incidents of banditry or robbery as well. The main reason for such a state of affairs was that the political leadership in Sind pursued the path of genuine political demands instead of supporting the romanticism of the middle class. In this connection, it may be mentioned here that Lt Gen Jahandad, the governor of Sind who, besides being a good soldier, played a particularly good political role, appears to be quick in taking advantage of the new conciliatory political trends of the landlords. The new minister of development in his cabinet, Mir Ejaz Ali Talpur, who served a prison term in connection with the MRD agitation in Sind, claims that 70 percent of the former members of the Sind Assembly share the same thoughts and that he will be calling a meeting in Karachi of these like-minded people. According to reports, a majority of the former members of

the national and provincial assemblies are not prepared to boycott the elections and have decided to participate. It must be stated here that on the basis of the new conciliatory policy of the landlords it would be wrong to conclude that Sind is happy and contented or that it has no problems. But the fact remains that whatever the landlords may do unless and until Sind is given respectable and honorable participation in political power, its demands will not be fulfilled and a sense of deprivation and restlessness will prevail. It is true that the landlords will participate in the elections, but if they fail to secure the political rights of Sind, then no matter how many ministries are given to them Sind's problems will not be solved. The problems facing not only Sind but the whole of Pakistan can only be solved through the establishment democracy in Pakistan in accordance with well-known and universally accepted principles. Regulations and methods of elections as well as the status of the assembly should not deviate from these well-known and universally accepted principles. Otherwise, by obtaining the help of the landlords to establish an undemocratic structure by forging amendments to the constitution will not solve these problems. The real solution lies in the 1973 constitution and the restoration of its clear and straightforward provisions.

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CSO: 4656/70

PAKISTAN

CONGRESS VICTORY IN INDIA SEEN AS VICTORY FOR HINDU REVIVALISM

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 2 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Victory or Death for Congress?"]

[Text] The newly elected government in India has started working. India rightly deserves credit and honor for having continuously maintained the election process in strict conformity with rules and regulations. One-family rule may be the target of criticism, but it is a fact that when the outcome of the elections was against this family, Indira Gandhi accepted the verdict and did not even think of resorting to illegal methods to regain power. Finally when the elections turned out in her favor she became the prime minister once again. After Indira's death, the people were once more asked to vote on the question of her successor, and sure enough they overwhelmingly gave their approval. However, there is another aspect of this problem and it is a very painful one. The glorious victory of Congress and Rajiv, when assessed, reveals that the way Congress achieved this victory is in reality the death of its principles and ideologies. To achieve this victory, Congress had to undergo "shudhi"--a process of purification. It abandoned its secular ideology and adopted narrow-minded radical Hindu communalism. This is why many of the top-ranking Rashtriya Sevak leaders appealed to the Hindu people to vote for Congress even though the Bharatiya Janta Party, which was previously the favorite party of Rashtriya Sevak Singh, was in the arena. But since the opposition in India raised slogans for reconciliation with Pakistan, Sevak Singh and other like-minded people rejected it and sided with Congress, which is now the symbol of Hindu revivalism and hostility toward Pakistan. Looking deeper, one can clearly see the crushing defeat of the opposition and in particular the destruction of the Bharatiya Janata Party as a defeat for slogans of reconciliation with Pakistan. Victory for Congress is seen as a tribute to India's policy of hostility toward Pakistan and other neighboring countries. During these elections, Rajiv Gandhi raised no domestic political or economic slogans. He kept on repeating three points, just like "his master's voice." The first point was that India faces an external threat, the second point being that India is confronted with internal threat and the third point is that Congress proved in 1965 and 1971 that India is militarily strong and that even today because of Congress India's military might dominate the area and if power and authority were to slip into the hands of the group wanting to have good relations with Pakistan, then the whole plan would be upset. The opposition will strengthen the hands of the separatists internally and on the

foreign front by having friendly relations with Pakistan will undo all the accomplishments of Congress. The people of India have approved Rajiv Gandhi's points, and now the evil spirit of Rashtriya Sevak, manifesting victory for the revival of narrow-minded Hindu communalism, has entered the body of Congress. We will have to assess right now what havoc this evil spirit will play inside and outside India.

9315
CSO: 4656/70

PAKISTAN

BALANCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL POWER FOR PRESIDENT, PREMIER URGED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 7 Jan 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Balance Between the Powers of the President and the Prime Minister"]

[Text] With the end of hearings by the election commission of complaints and protests in connection with electoral wards on the national and provincial levels, another stage has been completed in the preparations for the general elections. After President Zia consults first with the governors and then with the chief elections commissioner, the election program is expected to be announced. Although it is a matter of basic importance whether elections are held on a party or nonparty basis, a matter of even greater importance concerns those constitutional amendments that will be made with a view to establishing a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister.

President Zia's remarks in regard to this matter in his speech of 12 August 1983 created the impression that whereas the 1973 constitution gave all the powers to the prime minister, with the president not a constitutional leader but a mere figurehead, the president's plan would reverse the roles, giving the president the greater portion of the power and placing the prime minister in a secondary position. It has also been said in this regard that the president would be able to nominate as premier a national assembly member of his choice. If the national assembly does not approve, the president would nominate another member. The well-known democratic tradition is quite the opposite and gives the leader of the majority party in the national assembly the right to form the cabinet.

The question of the balance of power between the offices of the president and the prime minister is so important that Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, leader of the defunct People's Party, said in an interview with NAWA-I-WAQT during his brief visit to Lahore last month that the issue of party or nonparty elections was important in itself but not as basic as the issue of a responsible parliament. The importance of this issue can be gauged from the fact that in his 10 December meeting with President Zia, Mian Tufail Mohammad, the leader of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, included this point in the assurances that he insisted on before he would consent to take part in the 19 December referendum:

"That no other amendments be made to the constitution other than to create a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister and to make the agreement of objectives and Islamic rules effective and enforceable parts of the constitution; further, that the prime minister should not be made a powerless subordinate of the president but that the prime minister be dignified and responsible as befits the office of premier."

There is no doubt that the reverberations of the cry of boycott can be heard, but the increasing readiness being openly expressed by several of the ministers and assembly members in Sind who belonged to the former ruling party has changed greatly the direction in which the wind is blowing. Mr Jatoi's emphasis on the basic importance of the parliament's responsible nature rather than on nonparty elections has naturally created the impression that the ground has been prepared for some sort of change in the point of view of that group of the People's Party that regards Mr Jatoi as its leader and spokesman. The fact is that the kind of powers allocated to the president and the prime minister in the 1973 constitution could have been acceptable and practicable only for Bhutto and Chaudhry Fazlillahi. But that lack of balance cannot be remedied by constitutional amendments that would so reduce the powers of the prime minister as to make him another Chaudhry Fazlillahi.

We will not have to wait long to find out the nature of the constitutional amendments envisaged by President Zia. But it would be more realistic and appropriate to refrain from experimentation. The future national assembly will be a body composed of representatives elected directly by the people; thus, it should be invested with universally accepted powers. As the leader of the assembly, the prime minister's powers should be worthy of his office. Although our national assembly will differ from other parliaments in that its powers will lie within the limits of Islamic precepts (and it will not be invested with the kind of powers that would allow it to sanction marriage between two men), it is necessary not to go beyond the establishment of a balance between the offices of president and prime minister so that while the president fulfills the duties of the leader of the country, the prime minister also enjoys the powers of head of government. If such a balance is not maintained because of expediency or for some other reason, the hidden element of destruction would create unending problems, become the cause of confrontations and change differences into dissension and crisis. Thus, a balance between the powers of the president and the premier would prove both appropriate and useful, so that the national assembly created by the 23 March general elections can fulfill its duties efficiently, and so that in future elections when the voters express their decisions regarding the problems facing the nation, the issue of the powers of the president and the premier will not become an election issue.

9863

CSO: 4656/73

PAKISTAN

MAULANA QUASAR NIAZI, HANIF RAI HAILED AS 'INTELLIGENT' POLITICIANS

Karachi JANG in Urdu 24 Jan 85 p 3

[Abdul Qadir Hasan column: "Nonpolitical Affairs"]

[Text] Two of our politicians have been very intelligent--Maulana Quasar Niazi and Mr Hanif Rai. In a way, every politician acts intelligently in his own interest but the way these two have displayed intelligence in everyday life is unparalleled these days. You may ask if the politicians who are deserting their parties to contest elections are not intelligent. The answer is that these people were never really in any political party. They were in their personal party, the motto of which is pursuit of self-interest. Since these days their self-interest lies outside the party and in contesting elections, they are contesting elections without a care for the party. If any leaders were really involved in a party, they were Mr Niazi and Mr Rai, and that is so because the parties of both these leaders were their own personal parties. If they leave, these parties will surely perish. That is why at this delicate juncture of the elections they have shown intelligence and thus saved not only their own lives but the lives of their parties as well. Mr Rai has decided that his party will not contest the elections. In other words, he will not participate. Mr Rai has been successful in safeguarding his honor, and according to the latest reports, far from the elections he has started looking after his shoe factory. It is learned that every day he regularly visits his factory, supervises the making of shoes, conducts the business of his factory and in his spare time indulges in his hobby of politicking. After Maulana Hasrat Mohani, it is in Mr Rai that we find the combination of pursuit of business and pursuit of letters. It is gratifying to note that along with a few other politicians, our friend has not lost his senses. Had Mr Rai jumped into the elections, none of his friends would have welcomed it. At the most, someone like me might have written a piece in his support in some paper. But if writings in a newspaper had any effect and if they gained any votes, then today I would have been standing for election from some constituency. But I'm well aware that the only sacrifice to be expected from my readers is that they buy the paper where they find many things and, for diversion, this column as well. To expect anything more would be to join the ranks of those politicians who labor under the illusion that had they fought the elections, their opponents would have forfeited their deposits. Mr Rai correctly guessed that the only way to save his honor in this hopeless election is to keep away from it.

Mr. Rai's decision may have a lesson in view of the fact that a former finance minister and chief minister of Punjab and a prominent leader of his party feels that his salvation lies in keeping away from the election arena. Another former chief minister of Punjab and a very prominent politician, Mian Mumtaz Daultana, is also out of the elections. This is perhaps the first election of his political life in which he is not there. I use the word "perhaps" because I'm not sure he was or was not a candidate in the last banned elections. Any-way, if it is not his first absence from an election, it is at least the first election in which he has practically retired from politics. So much so, that on the evening of President Zia's election speech he was invited to a dinner party and arrived exactly at the time mentioned by the host. He was the first guest to arrive. In the large tented pavillion, he was alone except for a few servants who, in a corner, were listening to the President's election speech on a radio. Mian Sahib could hear the speech. Therefore, he got up from his seat and moved to another place where the voice could not reach him. On hearing of this incident, I was convinced that this great scholar of practical politics has moved far away from his field. But he still maintains some distant connection with politics. Taking advantage of his political convictions, he has allowed his real son, Javed, and his political heir, Mian Khurshid Anwar, to contest the elections. But Rai Sahib did not use even this kind of political conviction, otherwise like Mian Daultana, he too, though himself not taking part in the elections, could have had someone near and dear contest the elections. From this, one can guess that in his understanding of issues and political sagacity, Rai Sahib is ahead of Mian Sahib and has completely saved his honor from the elections.

This is exactly what Maulana Quasar Niazi has also done. Until recently he was a candidate for the national assembly from Islamabad, but now he has decided to contest the senate election and thereby completely saved himself from the general election fray. Maulana's political astuteness has stood him well and an admirer of Maulana like me is very happy at his correct decision. Now, according to his announcement, he is free to campaign for his party's candidates. This kind of freedom is essential for him. As for his party's candidates, well, they have to depend on their own luck.

In this election, these are the only two politicians whom I have found to be intelligent in the best sense of the word. I thought it fitting to applaud their political astuteness and the way they have managed to maintain their political stature.

12286
CSO: 4656/79

PAKISTAN

NOORANI WARNS AGAINST CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Feb 85 p 6

[Text] Karachi, Feb. 17: Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, Chief of the defunct JUP, took strong exception to Mian Tufail Mohammad's statement in which the Jamaat Chief had pleaded for immediate introduction of amendments in the 1973 Constitution by the present regime.

In an exclusive interview to 'The Muslim', he said the amendments proposed to be introduced had nothing to do with Islam as their primary objective was to give 'arbitrary and unlimited powers to the President'.

He said the short and chequered history of Pakistan was full of glaring instances which proved what happened when unlimited powers were given to heads of state.

Elaborating his point, he pointed out the manner in which Governor General Ghulam Mohammad dismissed Khawaja Nazimuddin, and dissolved the Constituent Assembly, President Iskandar Mirza dismissed the constitutional government and abrogated the 1956 Constitution in 1985, and President Ayub Khan did not honour even his own 1962 Constitution and transferred power to a General instead of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

He said under the 1973 Constitution no individual or group of individuals has the right to amend the Constitution. "The method of amendment is laid down in the Constitution itself which is by two-thirds majority of the elected members of the assembly.

Asked about his comments on the verdict of the Supreme Court in the Nusrat Bhutto case, Shah Saheb said even the Supreme Court had no right to amend the Constitution nor did it have the right to give powers to any individual to amend it as the Court itself was "a creation of the Constitution and not the creator". It had exceeded its powers of interpretation, he added.

He added in democracies the heads of states have only ceremonial powers and it was because of the bitter experiences of the past history of Pakistan that appropriate powers were assigned to the Prime Minister and the President in the 1973 Constitution to which "Mian Tufail Mohammad's Party was a signatory".

Shah Ahmad Noorani said the sacred name of Islam was being used "for selfish purposes", otherwise the 1973 Constitution in his view "is more perfect than all the previous constitutions framed in Pakistan.

He said it was the 1973 Constitution which for the first time declared Islam as "state religion", Secondly, it defined Qadianis as a minority for the first time. Thirdly, it laid down that nothing which is repugnant to Islam would be acceptable in the Constitution or in the laws of Pakistan. And, lastly, it laid down that within seven years all laws would be modified or repealed in accordance with Islamic tenets.

He said had martial law not been imposed and elected government not disbanded, the Islamisation process would have been completed by 1980.

Asked about the statements and sermons of Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Bajwa on television the Maulana said he would not take notice of those singing the official tune.

Maulana Noorani said there were people who sermonised that only Allah was the legislator and none other had the right to legislate, and yet the same people will--uphold martial law and give powers to legislate and amend constitution not to the elected representatives but to an individual or group of individuals.

Concluding, he warned that if the present regime went ahead with the arbitrary amendments in an arbitrary manner it would open up a Pandoras's Box fraught with serious consequences.

CSO: 4600/312

PAKISTAN

NATION URGED TO CONTINUE DEMOCRATIZATION

GF031036 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Feb 85 p 7

[Editorial: "Partyless, Not Mindless"]

[Text] The general elections held on Monday have, apart from springing quite a few surprises, confirmed a number of facts of political life in the country. It is now plain that the people are politically as alive and awake today as ever before in spite of nearly eight years of martial law and efforts to depoliticise them. This, no doubt, is a healthy trend and was clearly demonstrated by the fairly satisfactory turnout of the voters. In the absence of open and full-blooded participation of the political parties, it would have been unrealistic to expect the people to turn up in any large numbers at the polling booths. The election campaign had been rather flat no major issues were debated to attract wide popular involvement. Yet the fact that the voter turnout was higher than many perceptive observers expected points to the people's keenness to participate in the political process. The opposition political parties contributed to the size of the turnout by asking their workers to help defeat pro-government personages. Monday was the day of the people, but credit also goes to the government for holding elections that appear to have been by and large peaceful and without any attempt to falsify the popular verdict. Barring the few incidents which took place--some because of the overenthusiasm of the supporters of rival candidates--the electoral exercise could not have been smoother.

One lesson to be drawn from Monday's exercise is that the people possess the ability to run a representative government. In spite of his limited experience of elections, the Pakistani voter can be counted on to display great political maturity and exercise sound judgment when entrusted with the responsibility of choosing his representatives. Much will be read into the way the elections have gone. Interpreting the voting trends in an election which was not conducted in terms of universally recognised norms is going to be a difficult undertaking. It will take time for the results to be analysed fully. Yet a few things seem clear. Most voters appear to have remembered that voting in a parliamentary election is not a nonpolitical act. Partyless though the elections were, many voters did not show casualness in deciding their preference.

The defeat of groups and people working in close association with the present government cannot be put down entirely to mindless chance or to the voters

fickleness. Most of the federal and provincial ministers who contested the polls failed to get elected. Members of the Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Consultative Council] and the provincial councils did not fare much better. Thus, an official position was no vote-getter. It is hard to escape the conclusion that there was some logic behind the way the voting went. A case in point was the defeat of the political heavyweights of the Jamaat-i-Islami in Karachi and the Punjab--the party being known to be close to the establishment. Regardless of how one interprets the end-result, the fact remains that the average voter so often maligned for his alleged lack of understanding of politics has shown an unmistakeable capacity for political discernment.

[GF031040] The new assembly which has been elected has a challenging task before it--in fact more challenging than would have been the case in normal circumstances. Making laws is of course one basic function of a legislature. The other, in a parliamentary set-up, is giving birth to--and maintaining or removing--a responsible government. But coming as it does after a period of suspension of constitutional government and the normal processes of politics, the newly-elected National Assembly will also be called upon to give a sense of political direction to the country, and provide it with a national focus. How far it succeeds in meeting this challenge depends on a number of factors. First, a body of 237 individuals each deriving his/her mandate separately from a particular constituency cannot provide the coherence and the leadership which the country needs at this moment of internal and external crisis. The assembly's work and performance will depend on whether or not its members are free to organise themselves into like-minded groups or parties and on what powers and functions are allocated to the assembly after constitutional amendments are introduced. Also relevant in this context will be the political and legislative functions. The assembly's standing will be largely determined by its capacity to act effectively and independently of the government, especially on crucial issues.

For instance, much would depend on what position the newly-constituted body takes on the Constitution of 1973 and the proposed amendments. It could decide to preserve the broad constitutional structure the country was given in 1973, thus avoiding a new crisis, or else the assembly could throw the entire political framework into the melting pot by opting for far-reaching changes. Finally, the success or failure of the new assembly will be judged primarily in the context of how it acquires itself in the task of building up a durable political system through a process of national consensus. In other words, if our new parliamentarians show as much political maturity as their voters have shown, they will understand fully the limitations of a policy which seeks to banish the old established political forces from political life. The assembly should seek a path of conciliation and consensus so that political opinion from both ends of the spectrum, whether included in the new set-up or excluded from it, is brought together in the task of building national unity and social harmony. The elections also offer a lesson to those who could only witness them from outside. The people have shown a high degree of political resilience. They are waiting for the leadership which can inspire and mobilise them to come forward. Each of the 'defunct' political parties must go through a process of self-examination with a view to determining for itself whether it has the resources and the abilities which are

essential to sustain political forces in conditions of adversity--and often illegality. Only the fittest survive. When old forces fail, new ones arise, and these are generally less easy to manage or control. One only hopes that the process of democratisation which began on Monday will be carried forward and given credibility in the interest of national unity. The next step should be the withdrawal of martial law, transfer of power to a representative government and restoration of full constitutional and political freedom.

CSO: 4600/310

PAKISTAN

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, JUDGES' ROLE DISCUSSED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 14 Feb 85 p 13

[Article by Ayaz Amir]

[Text] Is there any person whose heart will not bleed for that pillar of the judiciary, Chief Justice (Rtd.) Sheikh Anwarul Haq? Long after the party is over, he is trying to protect the honour and virtue of the dust-laden Constitution of 1973. In a series of remarks at a Sham-i-Hamard function (where else?) in Lahore, he has boldly questioned the CMLA's authority to amend it. The Supreme Court, according to His Lordship, had validated Martial Law in the Nusrat Bhutto case only after the administration's assurance that national elections would be held within a period of six to eight months. The right to amend the Constitution was limited by the Doctrine of Necessity. When, however, the administration failed to redeem its pledge to hold elections within the stipulated period, it forfeited the right to amend the 1973 Constitution which consequently should be restored in its pristine purity.

What is one to make of this cry in the woods? The constitutional battle to save the 1973 Constitution was lost the day Shaikh Anwarul Haq agreed to become Supreme Court Chief Justice in place of Justice Yaqub Ali Khan who was sacked after he had admitted Begum Nusrat Bhutto's constitutional petition. What followed was perhaps predictable. Chief Justice Anwarul Haq validated the imposition of Martial Law, the Doctrine of Necessity being little better than a fig leaf to justify this decision. From then on there was no turning back. In the light of the Supreme Court decision, Gen. Ziaul Haq could not be bracketed with Gen. Yahya Khan (indicted after his removal, it is true) by the Supreme Court in the Asma Jilani case.

Brohi Knew

In retrospect it is clear that Mr. A. K. Brohi was one of the few people who knew what he was talking about when he argued that a successful coup d'etat was its own justification. Had the Supreme Court accepted his contention it would have spared itself, and the nation, a good deal of anguished hairsplitting later. The fiction that the 1973 Constitution was somehow still alive would have been exploded in good time. There would have been less lawyers' talk in the country and more attention to the nuts and bolts of political action. That this is not how events turned out can be ascribed chiefly to

the fact that Chief Justice Anwarul Haq's Supreme Court was in many ways a court on probation. Having quietly sat through Justice Yaqub Ali Khan's dismissal, it was under some necessity to prove its fearlessness and impartiality. So it delivered a judgment which made the best of both worlds, justifying the imposition of Martial Law and maintaining in the same breath that the 1973 Constitution was alive and well. Thus were planted the seeds of future confusion.

The PCO

The Martial Law Government did not feel restricted by this judgment in the least. It gave not the slightest hint of any elections for the next six years, let alone the next six months. Nor did the Government's reluctance on this question cramp the Supreme Court's style. Having 'conditionally' validated Martial Law, it unconditionally approved the Punjab High Court judgment which sentenced Mr. Bhutto to death.

If Justice Anwarul Haq entertained the notion that as a result of these two landmark judgments the Martial Law regime would feel indebted to him and consult him about its future plans, he was sorely mistaken. Having played his part on the stage, he had outlived his utility. His dream, if dream he had, that he would be rewarded for his pains by being given President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry's place, was not realised. A Martial Law regime which had played for such high stakes was not going to be pushed around by a set of gavel-wielding judges. The Provisional Constitutional Order, 1981, suddenly brought the higher judiciary face to face with reality. When Justice Anwarul Haq and a few other judges refused to take the oath under the PCO the Government's response in effect was one of good riddance. In this context it may be recalled that Justice Mushtaq Husain, the key judicial figure in Mr. Bhutto's High Court trial, was not even invited to take the oath under the new law. Of such bitterness were the wages of compliance.

Was it purely coincidental that at the Sham-i-Hamard function which saw Justice Anwarul Haq evoking the ghost of the 1973 Constitution, the chief guest was Justice Aftab Husain, former Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court? Although it found barely a mention in the Press at the time, he was transferred from the Federal Shariat Court without being shown the elementary courtesy of being informed beforehand, let alone consulted, that he was on the way out. And Justice Aftab Husain was the person who wrote the High Court judgment in Mr. Bhutto's murder trial.

Ill-tuned Cymbal

In no set-up can a judiciary 'single-handedly' assume the role of defender of the people's liberty. It derives what authority it has from the prevailing political system. Consequently it would be wrong to assume that the judiciary by itself could have resisted Martial Law in 1977. But if it could not have done that it would have resisted the temptation to cooperate with it, thereby becoming an accessory to subsequent events. It is immaterial at this stage to decide whether its motives were selfish or high-minded. The fact is that a lot of judges compromised themselves. Nothing in their performance fits them for the role of constitutional heroes. Nor does it entitle them to lecture the nation. If they yet feel inclined to talk, let them bear in mind that saying of Lord Bacon's that a much-talking judge is like an ill-tuned cymbal.

PAKISTAN

TRADE BODIES SAID PERFORMING INEFFECTIVE ROLES

GF050440 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Feb 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Economic Clout or Political Leadership?"]

[Text] Pakistani entrepreneurs are unhappy that the promised deregulation of trade and industry is not fast enough, that official policies are not being acted upon promptly, and concessions announced by the government become available much too slowly. They also accuse the officials of obstructionism and footdragging instead of showing the kind of alacrity needed to overcome the economic difficulties Pakistan and many others like it face in the world today.

If the government is not as responsive to the demands of trade and industry as it should be, the latter are themselves to blame for it. While there are more consultations between the government and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FPCCI] and the regional chambers, the real clout of these trade bodies is not increasing. The reasons for this is a significant change in the outlook of the office-bearers of these bodies. Until recently the federation and its regional chambers were ladders for businessmen and industrialists who wanted to become leaders of the business community. But now they are coming to be seen as political ladders by too many of their office-bearers. This has happened following the appointment of Shaykh Ishrat Ali, former president of the FPCCI, as adviser to the president, and later of Mr Javed Sultan Japanwala, president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as finance minister of Sind. In addition, several office-bearers of the federation and regional chambers were appointed members of the Majlis-e-Shoora and the provincial advisory councils.

Such appointments encouraged incoming office-bearers of such trade bodies to hope that they too could become ministers, advisers and members of the legislature if they stayed on the right side of the ruling officials and pleased and supported them zealously. So the chiefs of the federation and regional bodies are quick to greet major political announcements of the government and support them vigorously even without consulting their executive committees.

The new trend has alienated the top industrialists of the country even more from the federation and its regional chambers. They are assured they

can get more of what they want from the government directly than through these trade bodies. Hence most of them take scant interest in the deliberations of decisions of these bodies. And that has made these bodies lose much of their clout and stay rather ineffective, while the small men who manage to get themselves elected to these bodies try to use them as a political ladder. Officials of the Ministry of Finance, Industries and Commerce therefore tend to take the office-bearers of such bodies lightly.

An added weakness of these bodies is the fact that they do hardly any research and rely for all basic data on the government. So in debates with officials who know their facts and figures, the leaders of trade and industry feel severely handicapped. Hence, the trade bodies spend most of their funds on receptions for officials and hope to get more out of them by praising them publicly, even fulsomely.

Undoubtedly leaders of trade and industry who have become ministers or members of advisory councils have gained by the political vacuum in the country. But in the process of enhancing their own political importance they are undermining the significance of the trade bodies they head, and making them less effective and more strife-torn.

CSO: 4600/316

PAKISTAN

BANDITRY, LAW, ORDER SITUATION IN SIND SAID TO NEED ATTENTION

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 31 Dec 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Increase in Incidents of Banditry"]

[Text] In Sind after a short lull the bandits have once again started their activities. The other day, armed bandits robbed a high-ranking officer of Habib Bank in the New Karachi area and killed his brother-in-law; they even intimated the members of the family and removed jewelry from the ladies. The bandits killed two people and injured five others in an attack near Sohrab Goth a day earlier. Four armed bandits looted 245,000 rupees from a local firm in the Eid-gah area. In Hyderabad, three armed bandits were arrested while looting a restaurant. In Larkhana, bandits robbed 30,000 rupees from an official of a tea company. In Garhi Yaseen, shots fired by a notorious bandit and fugitive criminal killed one person and injured another. Bandits armed with Sten guns and revolvers robbed a jeweler in a busy locality of "B" area on 26 December of hundreds of thousands of rupees worth of jewels and escaped after injuring a young man. The same day, seven bandits attacked a group of policemen with Russian-made guns in Rato Dero, killing three constables and a part-time janitor. Some bandits killed one person and kidnapped four others in a village near Hala.

This is a short resume of the activities of bandits over the past 4 days. If detailed investigations were to be carried out, many more such incidents would be found in the daily newspapers. Besides this there are many similar incidents that have not been noted in the daily logs of the police nor do the newspapers receive any information about them. There are incidents about which even the police are ignorant. For example, the police expressed ignorance until late at night about the incidents that took place on 29 December. On the other hand, higher police officers claim that the bandits have been completely routed and their activities totally stopped and that the law and order situation in Sind is under control. They have been saying that the police have pledged to safeguard the lives and property of the people and the performance of the police deserves praise, etc., etc. In news reports published on 30 December the police claimed that with the death of the notorious bandit Nadir Jaskani and the arrest of Iqbal Haji and his three associates there is complete law and order in Sind and that crime has more or less been stopped. All bandits worth mentioning in upper and lower Sind have been destroyed and the police have adopted special tactics to check the movement of

bandits on roads, national highways and coasts; the police with the help of fast vehicles equipped with wireless have been keeping a close watch on the bandits. Police officers spend many days in the target areas of the bandits and keep abreast of their movements.

After reading such claims from the police it appears that there is peace and tranquility all over Sind and that if someone passes by openly carrying gold, even at midnight, he will find no one on the roads except the police. On the other hand, robberies are taking place daily, passenger buses are being robbed and people are being kidnapped. The question that arises is whether the police are watching only the movements of bandits or are they really protecting the lives and property of the people as well. The incidents are proof of the fact that the bandits are doing whatever they please even in a big city full of hustle and bustle like Karachi, and there is no one to inquire about their activities. The bandits responsible for incidents succeed in escaping. It must be mentioned here that just before the referendum the police did a spectacular job by cracking down on the bandits in the Sind interior and destroyed many notorious outlaws. But now the conditions that once existed are returning. Bandits are undaunted. The people now feel insecure. High-ranking police officials and the Sind administration will have to develop a comprehensive plan to reestablish law and order in Sind and defeat the bandits completely. So far, the government's plans have failed miserably. Along with this, police employees should receive due encouragement for performing their duties well. Only the inculcation in them of devotion to duty can give them the incentive to risk their lives. No one risks his life merely for a few rupees. In this connection, the police authorities will have to make changes in the situation according to which police officers having served for a particular period are eligible for promotion and awards only for extraordinary performance of their duties. If these conditions remain in force, then the new police recruits will always lag behind.

9315
CSO: 4656/70

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN-IRAN HIGHWAY BEING CONSIDERED

GF031211 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Feb 85 Economic and Business Review Supplement p I

[Excerpt] Karachi, 24 Feb--Mr Ahmed Suhaimi Bin Babjee, vice chairman, Development of Islamic Countries Transport Organization (DICTO) today indicated possible assistance to Pakistan in the construction of dual carriage highway linking Karachi with Iran.

Speaking at a luncheon given by Mr Bashir Ahmed, deputy chairman, DICTO, Mr Suhaimi, who is leading a four-member Malaysian delegation on a 4-day visit to Pakistan, said that feasibility of the Pak-Iran highway project would be considered and DICTO would mobilize resources for its implementation.

He explained that this organization has been established mainly to build up economy of Islamic countries by way of developing their transport system and in the first instance Pakistan was picked up a model project.

He said the formation of DICTO will help the Islamic countries in the field of the developing their transport system.

He said that his delegation will visit many more Islamic countries to explain the DICTO policies and the idea behind its formation and said that it would arrange loans and expertise for Islamic countries as Malaysians were determined to reflect Islam and Islamic spirit in every sphere.

The delegation which arrived here on Friday, during its stay in Pakistan, will discuss with the Islamic Chamber and the DICTO's deputy chairman, the matters relating to agenda of the Islamic countries conference on transport, proposed to be held at Kuala Lumpur in December.

CSO: 4600/316

PAKISTAN

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER 'MISGUIDED' ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 14 Feb 85 p 6

[Text] Referring to last year's Bhopal tragedy and similar man-made disasters, Dr. M. A. Qadeer has, in a letter published last week in an Islamabad Daily, raised issues and asked questions that are of vital concern to the people of Pakistan as well as other Third World countries. Listing some of the world's worst industrial and chemical accidents, he quotes an Oxfam estimate that in one year 25,000 persons were killed and 375,000 poisoned by pesticides alone. The Doctor points out that in about twenty-five years the fledgling, branch-plant industrialization in the Third World has managed to inflict on itself as much ecological damage as Western industrialism of far greater magnitude wrought in two centuries. He believes that in these countries, while the pre-industrial filth and dirt remain to be managed, modern pollution has become a major threat to human life. Overall, his perfectly plausible view is that the great harm to human life and the natural environment is being done by "short-sighted developmental policies and by the institutionalised corruption and inefficiency of governments in these countries."

Coming to Pakistan, Dr. Qadeer presents it as a typical example of misguided development in the Third World. He points out the known, but oft-ignored, fact that after six Five-Year Plans and billions of dollars in foreign debt, 60 percent of our people do not get clean drinking water, and the facility of sewerage disposal is available to an ever smaller percentage. Then he reminds us that the air in Pakistan is polluted by dust and dried dung, by chemical fumes and gaseous exhaust, and that, therefore, many preventible diseases spread among large sections of the people. He also underlined the folly through which our rivers and canals are routinely used for discarded industrial waste and garbage disposal. Taking up one special act of insanity, he narrates that the walled city in Lahore is being commissioned for supply of water with cement asbestos water pipes, when it is known all over the world that asbestos is a cancer-causing agent. The world's experience is dismissed by the engineers and planners in this town with the inane remark that they have purchased the best available material from a European country.

Having made out his case, Dr. M. A. Qadeer goes on to ask why safeguards are not provided before the implementation of programmes and projects that are known to have deleterious side-effects. In the earlier part of his letter, he has hinted at the causes but the questions remain to be asked with greater

clarity. Why is this suicidal trend not arrested? Why are the authorities in Pakistan laying the foundations of ecological catastrophe that will surely, even if slowly, ensure the annihilation of its people? It will be recalled that last year an Ordinance was issued setting up an Environmental Protection Council which was to arrange for the establishment of an Environmental Protection Agency with a Director-General who was to be given wide powers to act with all expedient speed, including responsibility for formulating policies. What has been done during these twelve months and more to help protect the lives of our people? Judging by the plaint made by an outstanding scientists, very little indeed. There may be other answers to the basic questions raised by Dr. Qadeer, but perhaps a vast majority of our people will agree that State policies can best be made to serve public interest when Government and all its agencies are made fully responsible to the people's representatives, when the Press is free to probe and criticize Government functioning, and when an alert and educated public opinion can assert its will.

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SRI LANKA

PROSPECT FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RICE DIM FOR CURRENT YEAR

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 18 Feb 85 p 5

[Article by Elmo Leonard]

[Text] Sri Lanka may well not achieve self-sufficiency in rice within this year. This fact is in view of consumer wants of this commodity which are not satisfied.

The Agrarian Research and Training Institute (ARTI), in its latest news bulletin, states that around 5t percent of the households in Sri Lanka appear to be taking inadequate quantities of calories. However, a higher consumption rate of rice particularly among lower-income groups was necessary. This called for self-sufficiency in rice at higher levels of consumption than at present.

Citing the sources of information as the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Central Bank, Department of Census and statistics, MARGA and ARTI, the bulletin states that although rice is cherished in the Sri Lankan diet, the current price levels of rice in the retail markets are raising eyebrows of housewives. The cause for the price hike could be traced back to the drought and flood-affected Yala crop of 1983, and that of the Maha crop 83/84, which depleted rice stocks all over the country.

The food budget in households was between range of 33 percent for higher-income groups and 64 percent among lower-income groups in the recent past. Invariably the lower-income groups are more sensitive to any short-term price increases of food, particularly those of rice. According to the data computed on low-income group budget on food in Colombo for the month of January 1985 by the Census and Statistics Department it had been revealed that a household had spent Rs. 789.98 on food alone of which Rs. 236.48 consisted of expenditure on rice and wheat flour. This accounted for nearly 29.9 percent of the food budget.

The per-capita consumption of rice per month has increased by nearly 0.8 kg. to 8.4 kg. in 1981-82 compared to the conditions that prevailed three years before, according to the Consumer Finance Surveys. However, the main contributory factors for this situation appear to be the price increase of wheat flour and that of bread, per-capita consumption of which has indicated a

drop from 1389 gms. to 886 gms. and from 1997 gms. to 1519 gms. respectively.

Though rice price usually takes a down-ward trend by mid-February with the income Maha crop, this year it appeared to have stayed longer at a higher level. In addition to the depleted stocks mentioned above, the prevailing scarcity of rice at cooperative outlets, which cater to a vast number of low income households, too has contributed to swell the rice price at the open market. Generally over the years rice prices have moved upwards.

The choice of rice by customers at the retail market depends on several factors such as the appearance; taste; nutrition value; the way it lends itself to cooking; durability after cooking; cleanliness; absence of odour; grain enlargement; and purchasing power. It has been pointed out that more than 60 percent of the buyers in Colombo go for good quality medium grain nadu as it is the lower priced rice variety well within the budget. The red nadu is generally more popular, though the price is slightly higher.

Rice constitutes nearly 41 percent of the calorie intake of an average Sri Lankan. The medically recommended quantity is 2200 calories. However, it has been pointed out that during the last decade the cost of 100 calories for the lowest income groups has risen by over 500 percent.

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